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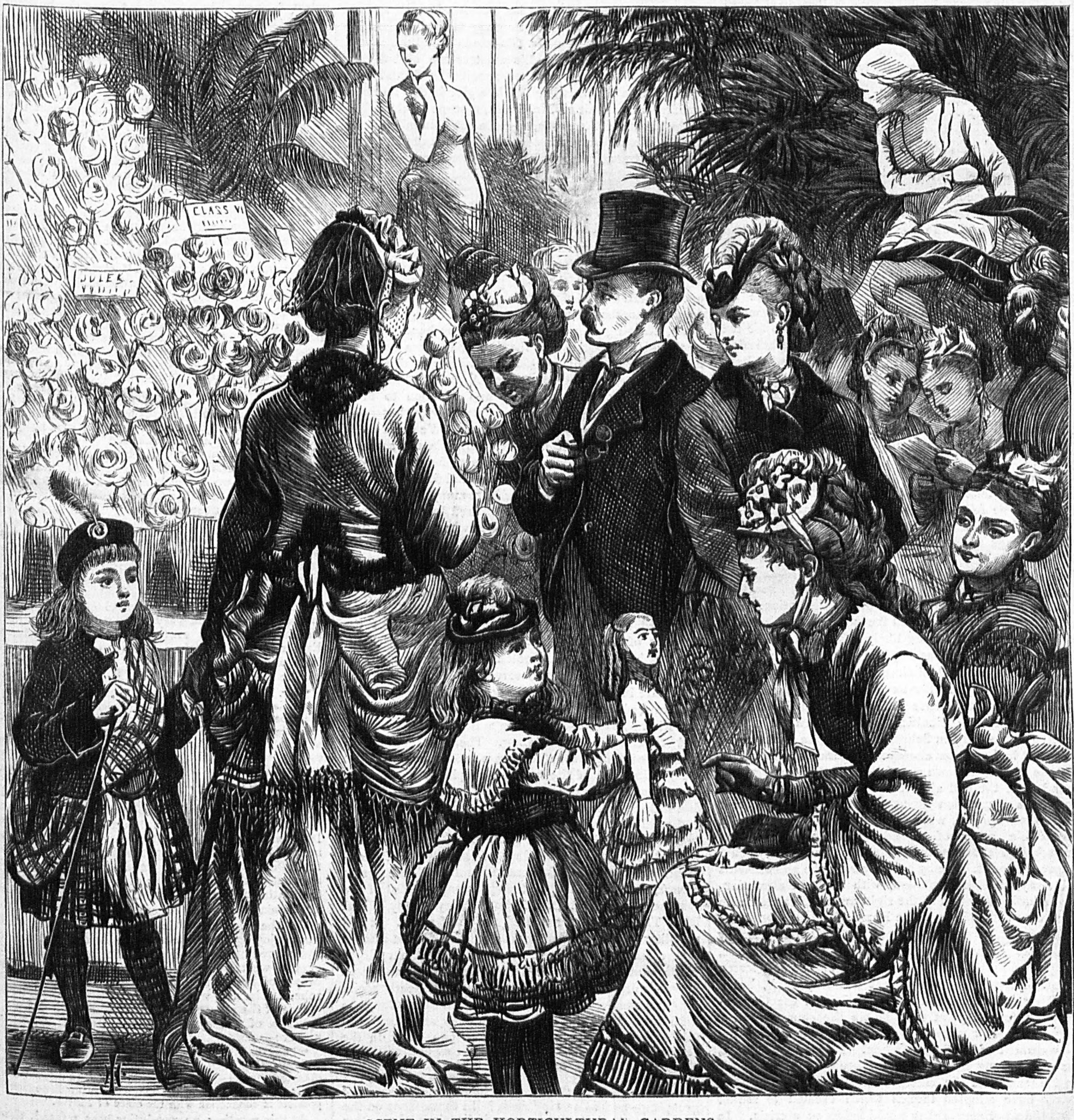

SCENE IN THE HORTICULTURAL GARDENS.

MR. W. H. SMITH, M.P.

THERE are men who make positions for themselves by force, so to speak, of gravity. They are not brilliant. They do not distinguish themselves in early life. It does not even appear that they set before them a great object and pursue it with persistence and devotion till they arrive at the goal. With a certain quietness they move on, without breathlessness or fuss, without making promises, and by and by we find them occupying a place to which nobody imagined that they ever aspired. Spectators standing around are not, however, surprised. The clever men, the active men, the promising men who are beaten take their beating as a matter of course. The powerfully-made respectable Englishman, of goodly presence, of imposing bearing, of strength of purpose, who was never in a hurry and never challenged anybody, has gone to the front and *he* is not surprised; and neither is he jubilant. It is impossible to tell by looking at him, by talking to him, or by listening to him, whether he ever expected to win these honours; only this one thing is certain, that he steps up very naturally, and does the superior work in the same easy, unassuming manner with which his friends were so familiar while he was several rungs lower down the ladder. We may quote an instance of this sort of man, who is not the subject of any sketch or portrait in these columns to-day. We refer to the Right Hon. Gathorne Hardy, the member for the University of Oxford, whilom President of the Poor Law Board, and deputy leader of the Conservative party in the House of Commons. Just in the leisurely, steady manner we have described did Mr. Hardy walk into the prominent place which he now occupies in the ranks of one of the two great parties in the House of Commons, passing on his way many a cleverer man and many a one more ambitious; and just so, we think, has Mr. W. H. Smith, the member for Westminster, been pursuing his quiet course these many years. When he first contested that most important metropolitan seat, people at a distance wondered who the man was who exhibited such temerity and worked the election with so much quiet confidence. It did not seem likely that this unknown, obscure Conservative gentleman should carry with him that immense constituency, and take an assured place in the House of Commons, while men of name and men of mark looked round in vain for the place where they could win an election, and fought losing battles over and over again. With some who have proved brilliant politicians in after life it has been the work of years to achieve the honour of representing an unimportant constituency, and when they have made good their footing once, they sometimes fail afterwards again and again, and remain for weary months and years in the cold shade outside the Senate. The member for Westminster is not of that class. It is not in the man to take any position by storm; but it is hardly in him to be foiled, or to be driven back from the vantage-ground which he has secured.

He belongs to the class of men who, if they never startle the world, very rarely make a mistake. Mr. Smith is a steadfast man. His friends can rely on him. They always know where to find him. They know they can depend on his judgment and his discretion. The heavier the undertaking, and the more surrounded it is with difficulties, the more likely is he to be the man to find a means of compassing the object in view. His plan is perhaps not at all clever to look at. It catches no one at first sight. But as we examine it we discover that it just meets the case and carefully avoids raising any unnecessary difficulties. His motion on Bible-reading in the London School Board is an instance in point. It had a rather clumsy appearance at first sight. No one reading it down would think that it would gather round it in the end almost the entire strength of the Board on a question about which a dozen different shades of opinion were held. There were quite a formidable array of amendments, for men almost entirely of his own way of thinking thought they could improve upon it. One by one, however, the amendments fell away, and the resolution, with a slight alteration, made judiciously and at the right moment, carried with it a vote of four-fifths of the Board.

Mr. Smith's amendment upon the Budget on Monday night was characteristic; that is to say, it was colourless, simple, and plain as a sentence in a child's first lesson book. There was no apparent dexterity in it, but it went straight to its object; it challenged the Government on the one point then before the country, and it served as an accurate measure of the forces of the Government and the Opposition. This was, no doubt, its aim. Many changes have taken place in two years in the temper of the House. Portions of the Radical party have adopted tactics which seemed to render doubtful what course they would follow on a crisis. In December, 1868, Mr. Gladstone had an overwhelming majority. He has put his followers to the test many a time since then, and has always shown a considerable preponderance of force. Quite lately, however, confusion has been introduced into his ranks, and it has not been easy to know where his men were and what they would do. A two-edged motion like that of Mr. White's last week upon the Budget might serve to carry a large number of votes, but the result would be no guarantee of the reliable strength of the ordinary combined opposition of Conservatives, independent members, and Radicals. It was important to know at this time, by direct and not by crooked means, what are the numbers on which the Conservative opposition may depend, and Mr. Smith's motion—anything but a two-edged one—was admirably calculated to serve that purpose. This was a brave, honourable stand-up fight, and the resolution, which ran thus, "It is inexpedient that the income-tax should be increased to the extent contemplated in the financial proposals of Her Majesty's Government," brought 250 votes in a House of 585 members. Though the majority was with Mr. Gladstone, it may be safely said that the feeling of the House was with Mr. Smith, and to no small extent the feeling of the country; and the member for Westminster gained prestige and position for his party. The fight of Monday night is one to which he and all Mr. Disraeli's followers will point with pride in many a conflict to come.

The gentleman whose portrait we give on page 128 is a rising man. When the turn of fortune comes—if it comes—to give the Conservatives a new opportunity, Mr. Smith will be to the fore, as a sound, steady, useful statesman, with an honourable career to appeal to, without a flaw on his escutcheon, and with no special claims upon him to hinder his full freedom of action. Mr. Gathorne Hardy has to carry Oxford University with him, a task which Mr. Gladstone found too severe years ago; but Mr. Smith's masters are an ordinary English constituency, with no specific brief, and they will "let him have his head." We give in this number, besides our portrait of Mr. Smith, a scene in the lobby of the House of Commons, wherein the honorable member for Westminster is in consultation with the Premier, taking that prominent position as a member of his party to which he has proved himself entitled.

OUR LONDON NOTE BOOK.

AMONG THE FLOWERS AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.

OUR artist has been among the flowers in these early spring days. Witness his sketch in the Royal Horticultural Gardens on the front page. We have entered upon the fair season of the year. In the present and the coming months pictures like this in the gardens at South Kensington will be multiplied by hundreds and by thousands. Let us be thankful that there are none of the distractions of invasion or civil war to disturb us in the enjoyment of our privileges. A good deal is said in these days about the frivolity and devotion to mere pleasure of the ladies of our upper classes, but more than half the allegations are libellous. We move softly in and out among the well-bred crowd in the scene of young summer of which our engraving forms a section, and silently we interrogate the faces and the movements. Of absolute frivolity we do not detect many signs. There is vanity, no doubt, but it is tempered by modesty and good feeling. Some we notice who, perhaps, live only to make appearance in these pleasant places; but they are comparatively few. With the mass other and altogether different sets of ideas rule. The genuine maternal instinct, for example, is evident enough on all sides of us. The child is not sacrificed to the mother, as some moralists upon the fashions of the age ask us to believe. That which our sketcher has so especially noted falls often enough under the attention of the mere observer whose note-book and pencil are in his pocket. The social sentiments are, by numerous plain tokens, active enough around us. Home, and what belongs to it, move in and out of the thoughts and conversation of the throng. There is tenderness of heart, considerateness of feeling, a readiness to sacrifice the gratification of the moment to please a friend or companion. Times have been when the moralist could find little to encourage him in the gay scenes of luxury and wealth. Such days were those in France anterior to the first Revolution, and in Rome in its decadence. Behind the scenes of splendour, of excitement, of merriment, presented for the entertainment of the great *monde*, there was then to the spectators no hint of the romance, the mystery, the feeling, the sympathy of real life. The joyous hour existed for itself alone. It had no other purpose than to amuse. We do not discern that class of phenomena in the crowd at our Royal Horticultural Gardens. There is a healthier and more hopeful spirit in the times. This is an eminently social throng, counting the lovely show and all that belongs to it for not so very much more than they are worth. If this is not the moral of an hour or two spent in the Royal Horticultural Gardens, then are we but indifferent readers of the life and feeling that take expression before us; and our artist, we think, is with us. For has he not set down in this picture beauty and dress and grouping—and something more? In those faces on the first page, we fancy there are no indications of a nation going to wreck upon the shoals of mere vanity and fashion, but signs rather of the honest sentiment, the modesty, the purity of feeling, which may help to preserve a great people in a crisis should the crisis come.

ROBES AND CHAINS.

The mayors of towns, in their robes and chains, formed neither an unimportant nor an insignificant part of the display at the opening of the International Exhibition on Monday. In their persons all England was in a manner represented and presented to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. When a great feast is given, private or public, it does not contribute to the effect to know too much about what has been going on behind the scenes. A few minutes spent in the kitchen before dinner is served does not enhance our enjoyment of the dishes. The curtain at the play had best not be drawn up till everything is in readiness for the prologue. When the festival or the show is over, however, there is some gratification in knowing how the brilliant result was accomplished. We like then the little bit of gossip, the anecdote, the peep at the wrong side of the scenery, the story of how nearly this or that essential element in the pageant failed, and how the integrity of the programme was preserved at the last moment.

These are our excuses for taking by the button-hole the spectator who admired the regiment of mayors on Monday, and telling him a little bit of gossip about one or two of them. We have a local newspaper before us which reveals the rather alarming fact that, only five days before that on which the mayors were summoned to South Kensington, the Right Worshipful the Chief Magistrate of Exeter appeared before the Town Council of that ancient city, and informed them that he had neither robe nor chain fit to appear in before the Prince of Wales. He explained to his brother Councillors that:—

> "It was fourteen years since the last gown was made, and though very well for ordinary occasions, yet he thought it would look rather dowdy in a State procession of this sort. No one might know who was inside it, but some people might notice that the gown was shabby and ask who it was walking seventh or eighth in the procession—for he believed Exeter occupied a very high place among the representatives of the cities. The answer to the question might be 'Oh, that is the Mayor of Exeter,' and, so that there might not be any reflection on the city, he thought it would be just as well to furbish it up a bit. On examination it was proved that the gown would "turn" very well, and it was thought by the committee that the money expended in this way would not be an unreasonable expense, as a new gown would cost £40 or £50. There was a still older gown—thirty years of age—trimmed with sable, a very valuable fur, and it was determined that this should be disposed of, and he had no doubt that the value realised from the old gown would provide for the expense of cleaning and trimming the new one."

This arrangement was so essentially economical that it met with the ready assent of the Council, and we trust no keen-sighted critic of the civic liveries, on Monday, was sharp enough to note that the robe of the Mayor of Exeter was made of "turned" cloth. A more difficult question arose with respect to the chain. On this topic a worthy ex-Mayor, Mr. Alderman Buckingham, said:—

> "When he had the honour to fill the offices he was in London once or twice as mayor, ex-mayor, and sheriff. He observed that all the large towns had chains, and some of a very handsome character. The time was now come when Exeter's mayor should have a chain, and though the expense of getting one seemed a tolerably large sum, yet the amount might very easily be got by subscription. It was not proposed to saddle the rates of the city with the cost. A trifling subscription from the members of this body who chose to subscribe, and the assistance that would come from out of doors, would soon be quite sufficient to give a very handsome chain."

The proposal, however, though well received, did not go altogether unchallenged. It appears that although Exeter sends two Liberal members to Parliament most of the mayors are of the Conservative persuasion. This fact is easily accounted for, without charging the electors with inconsistency. Once upon a time, quite early in the history of the Municipal Corporations Act, the Conservatives obtained a majority on the Council, and they utilised their advantage by electing Conservative aldermen, which increased the voting power of the party on the Council immensely. It would require a very large majority of Liberal Councillors to counteract the votes of the ten or a dozen Tory aldermen. We do not know whether there has ever been a Liberal alderman in Exeter, but if there has it is many years ago. These facts will serve to explain the following little speech on the question of the Mayor's chain:—

> "Mr. Norrington quite agreed that the Mayor should have some distinctive mark, but of course fault must not be found if the Liberals did not contribute, because they had nothing to do with the Mayor—and would therefore never be called on to wear it. He considered that this was a matter belonging entirely to the other side of the house, and he hoped his worship would find them generous."

This was, however, only banter. The body unanimously voted that it was desirable that the Mayor should have a chain, and if we had the subscription list before us, we should probably find Mr. Norrington's name upon it. It is worthy of note, as indicative of the growing smartness of country reporting, that in the paper before us, the *Western Times*, the head-line to that part of the account of the Town Council meeting which refers to the matter of the Mayor's robe and chain runs thus:—

> "Turning the mayor's old coat and chaining his worship."

On the very same day while the citizens of Exeter were enjoying these proceedings the councillors of a town some three hundred miles distant from the ancient city of the west were discussing the same topic. The Mayor of Ipswich did not complain of the state of his robe, but he also wanted a chain.

One of the aldermen of this old borough did not quite approve of the system of hanging chains upon the mayor:—

> "They had pretty nearly abolished chains in the new building they had erected for the care of lunatics," he observed, "though they were still obliged to retain them at the gaol; but he hoped they would have as little bondage as possible in connection with the office of Mayor."

At this meeting no resolution was passed, though it was understood that a chain would probably be purchased by subscription.

MARAVILLA COCOA FOR BREAKFAST.—The *Globe* says—Taylor Brothers' Maravilla Cocoa has achieved a thorough success, and supersedes every other cocoa in the market. Entire solubility, delicate aroma, and all the concentration of the purest elements of nutrition, distinguish the Maravilla Cocoa above all others. For Homœopaths and invalids we could not recommend a more agreeable or valuable beverage.—Sold in packets only, by all grocers. Sole proprietors, Taylor Brothers, London. [272

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

Mr. Sims Reeves has accepted an engagement to sing in English opera at the Gaiety.

Mr. Henry Naylor, of Drury-lane, has concluded an engagement with Mr. Holland for burlesque, on the opening of Woolwich Gardens Theatre.

The Beethoven Festival at Bonn—which was postponed in consequence of the war—is to take place in the month of August, on an enlarged scale.

We learn from the *Academy* that Herr Wagner has written two new pamphlets on music, which are to appear immediately, under the following titles:—"Ueber die Bestimmung der Oper," and "Ueber die Aufführung des Beethovenfestspiels: der Ring des Nibelungen."

Mr. Sothern was unable to perform in the "English Gentleman" at Birmingham on Friday night, owing to indisposition. Intelligence from Birmingham states that Mr. Sothern is still confined to his bed. His symptoms at one time were very serious, but it is believed that all danger has now passed, and that rest and quiet for a week will enable him to resume his professional engagements.

We learn from the *Athenæum* that Mr. Halliwell has discovered evidence that Shakespeare acted on two occasions before Queen Elizabeth, in the year 1594, in company with Kemp and Burbage—all three being described as "servants to the Lord Chamberlain." The poet was then in his thirty-first year. No record of his performances as an actor at so early a period has yet been produced. Mr. Maguire's novel will deal with the woman's suffrage question. Mrs. Bray, now in her eighty-first year, has nearly completed a memoir of Joan of Arc. In 1870 she published her "Revolt of the Camisards of the Cevennes," and the year before her "Life of the Good St. Louis." The Camden Society's third book for the year 1870-1, "The Letters and Papers of John Shillingford, Mayor of Exeter, A.D. 1447-1450," edited by Mr. Stuart Moore, is promised shortly. Mr. Percy Fitzgerald has in the press a new biography, entitled "The Kembles," an account of John Philip Kemble and his sister, Sarah Siddons.

The Vaudeville company, now at the Lyceum, will be succeeded on the 18th of May by that of the Varietés.

The Holborn Theatre will open in May with a four-act drama by Mr. C. H. Ross, entitled "Silence," and a spectacular play called "Salambo."

A French version of Mr. Gilbert's fairy comedy, "The Palace of Truth," is in preparation for the company of the Comédie Française, at the Opéra Comique.

The *Musical World* regrets to state that Mr. Manns, the conductor of the Crystal Palace Concerts, was so seriously indisposed as to be unable to preside at the last Saturday's concert, which was for his own benefit. Mdlle. Christine Nilsson has undertaken a series of concerts in California, and will proceed, viâ Havanna; and in the winter she has consented to perform in opera in New York and other principal cities in the United States. Mr. George Dolby has sailed for America, to arrange for concerts during the ensuing autumn and winter months, with the following artists:—Miss Edith Wynne, Mdme. Patey, Mr. A. Byron, Mr. J. G. Patey, Mr. Lindsay Sloper, and Mr. Santley.

A new theatre is in course of construction in Brooklyn.

Mr. J. L. Toole and Miss Farren have been playing a round of their most popular characters at the Royal Alexandra Theatre, Liverpool, during the last few weeks. They will return to the Gaiety Theatre about the middle of May.

An American paper says Salvini, the eminent Italian tragedian, famous in Shakespearian characters, is pronounced by Charlotte Cushman and Robert Browning the greatest of living actors.

The Globe Theatre, Boston, is to be disposed of in June.

During a visit to Liverpool a few days since, Sir Jules Benedict was presented with an address congratulating him on the honour of knighthood having been conferred on him.

A company, which numbers among its shareholders the names of several well-known playwrights, has been formed for the purpose of purchasing a site in the City suitable for the erection of a theatre. Several properties were submitted to the directors, and they have finally selected a freehold block situated in Goswell-street, close by the Aldersgate-street station. For this site, which covers an area of over nine thousand superficial feet, they have offered the sum of £18,000, and should this offer be accepted they will proceed at once with the erection of a theatre and restaurant, after the model of the Gaiety Theatre in the Strand. The block, which is square, is admirably adapted for the purpose, having entrance accommodation in no fewer than four streets.

Intelligence from Naples announces the death of M. Thalberg, the renowned pianist and composer. M. Thalberg was fifty-nine years of age. The deceased pianist took his first lessons at Naples. He was married to a daughter of Lablache.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul have left the Langham Hotel on a vacation tour to Rome.

The dramatic challenge we referred to last week—to compete with any actor in the representation of a Shakespearian character for £1,000 a side—was issued, according to the *Manchester Guardian*, by Mr. Pennington. Mr. C. Dillon and Mr. Fairclough are spoken of as probable competitors.

Mr. Barry Sullivan will shortly appear at Manchester.

The report of the death of Madame Viardot-Garcia is contradicted. She is in perfect health.

The appearance at a London theatre of the entire company of the Théâtre Français is (says the *Daily News*) an event that would never have happened in ordinary times and circumstances, and which it would be worse than selfish to hope will ever happen again in the lifetime of the present generation. The House of Molière, as the celebrated theatre in the Rue Richelieu delights to be called, is an institution of the State, possessing a tradition of two hundred years, dating from one of the most glorious epochs of French history, associated with many memorable names in French society and French literature, and forming in itself a part of the civilisation of a great country. "There is nothing in England comparable to this famous institution. We trust that society, looking over the British playbill in despair, will not lose this opportunity of refreshing its acquaintance with the French language and literature at a pure source, and that the 'young person' (of either sex) who has been taught French from childhood without ever learning to speak three words as they are spoken in France, will be permitted to take a lesson in accent, which no ordinary master can supply. For the sake of some English actors who might learn at least the rudiments of their profession from the elocution and the deportment of these illustrious artists, we could wish that all the performances of the Comédie Française were to be given in the mornings. The classical matinées announced for Saturdays will be doubtless appreciated by very many who are not playgoers. The theatre where the performances are to take place, if not altogether convenient in situation, is central, and it is of a size to enable the actors to be seen as well as heard—a consideration of some importance where the by-play is careful and intelligent, and the effects are more remarkable for delicacy than breadth. It seems to us that the dramatic profession in all countries ought to be grateful to a company which, even in its playbills, sets an example of dignity and self-respect."

MRS. S. C. HALL ON "WOMAN'S RIGHTS."

Mrs. S. C. Hall, in a letter to the *Echo*, makes the following remarks on the woman's rights movement:—"My personal knowledge of the advocates of these 'rights' is limited. Those I do know are better qualified to stand alone than to require any aid from companionship with men; are certainly more willing and ready to accord than to take assistance which 'the other sex' is expected to render, and which Holy Writ, and experience in all ages and countries, seem to have defined as duty to give and to receive. I believe the movement to be fruitful of incalculable evil to men, but especially to women; that if the comparative few who are agitating so as to make the rugged path easy by familiarity with it, were to succeed, the calamity would be terrible; that women's power to guide men would be destroyed, and with it all the sacred and happy influences of home; that women would of force abandon their high place in society to assume one immeasurably lower, and less effective for good; that, in short, for a mere shadow they would sacrifice the substance. My sole purpose now is to represent the sentiments of the very large majority of my sex, who have no chair-women or lecturers, with loud voices, to rattle their way into the minds of the public, and the ears of its legislators. I do not, indeed, see in the list the names of many whose counsel should have weight either with women or men. I know, indeed, that the weight is on the other side; and also that, in so far as numbers are concerned, for one who advocates these 'rights' there are ten who oppose them. The 'ones' may probably be best spared from the duties of wives and mothers—may, with little loss to society, be relieved of responsibilities that create the hereafter—moulding the men and women of the future; but tares among the wheat cannot but prejudice the harvest."

General Cluseret and the Fenians.—It may not be uninteresting to know that this notorious individual, whose name of late has been so prominently before the public, and who now holds the chief military command of the Communist forces in Paris, was deeply implicated in the Fenian conspiracy. Like many other foreign adventurers resident in America, he mixed himself up with the Fenian movement, and was looked upon as an important accession to its ranks. In 1866 he left America for Paris, where he was introduced to the Head Centre, James Stephens, who a short time previously had effected his escape from Ireland, notwithstanding the large reward of £2,000 which was offered by the Government for his apprehension. Cluseret was shortly afterwards appointed by Stephens as chief of the military staff, at a salary of £50 per month, with permission to select his second in command. It is not likely that Cluseret would have been entrusted with such an important post were it not for the refusal of several Irish officers of distinction in the American army to join the movement until the insurrection became a *fait accompli*. Cluseret selected as his second in command "General" Fariola, an Italian by birth, and an ex-officer of Garibaldi's staff, who had served as a colonel in the Federal army during the civil war, and was, at the time of his selection by Cluseret, a farmer in the United States. Both of them came to England, and entered into communication with the conspirators in Ireland. After the deposition of James Stephens, Colonel Thomas Kelly (of Manchester notoriety), Edward Duffy (who has since died in prison), Richard Burke (now said to be an inmate of the prison lunatic asylum), "General" Godfrey Massey (the informer), and others, formed what was called a military council in London. Cluseret, who had contracted a dislike for Stephens, of whom he spoke in the most contemptuous manner, and of whose power he was jealous, gave his adhesion to this "council." When the insurrection of 1867 was decided upon by the "military council," Cluseret despatched Massey to take the chief command in the south of Ireland, and also invested Fariola with an important military command. If the insurgents had been able to hold out for any time, it is probable that Cluseret would have taken the chief command. As it was, however, he wisely kept himself out of Ireland, and on the collapse of the insurrection succeeded in effecting his escape to France.

To Clean a Silk Dress.—Use Archer's improved Colloid, as advertised on page 140. This article is also invaluable for washing prints, muslins, and all coloured frocks or dresses for spring and summer wear. [361

LITERATURE AND ART.

Mr. Blanchard Jerrold is about to publish, under the admirable title of "The Best of All Good Company," a series of "Days" with our eminent authors. He opens next month with "A Day with Dickens," to be followed by "A Day with Lord Lytton," and then, in the centenary month, "A Day with Sir Walter Scott;" and so on.

Mr. Darwin has presented to the University of Cambridge the remainder of the collections in invertebrate zoology made by him during the celebrated voyage of the *Beagle*.

At Lahore the Oriental College has been formally opened, and promises well.

There is a new weekly paper in Ceylon, the *Galle Telegraph*.

Mr. Anthony Trollope leaves for Australia to-day (Saturday).

Mr. Tennyson has agreed to become a member of the Glasgow Committee for carrying out the Scott centenary celebration.

The copyright of the *Swansea Penny Post* was brought to the hammer last week. The first bid for the copyright was 3d., and, after a "lively competition," the lot was bought in at a shilling.

A bust of the Emperor of Prussia, executed on commission by Professor Halbig, of Munich, is spoken of as a first-rate example of modern sculpture in Germany.

The *Academy* says a large series of woodcuts after Rethel's frescoes at Aix-la-Chapelle have lately been published by the Rhenish and Westphalian Art Union at Düsseldorff.

The poetical contributions in the *Wandsbecker Bote*, which appeared from 1771 to 1775, have been collected and reprinted. All the great names in German literature are represented with the exception of Wieland.

The Ballad Society's report for 1871 promises for this year at least three volumes.

Good Words for May contains a poem on the death of a child, from the pen of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone. The poem was written in 1846, and the domestic incident which it commemorates occurred in the Premier's own family.

It is rumoured that Mr. Tennyson is engaged on a poetical work which will shortly be published by Messrs. Strahan.

The London correspondent of the *Western Daily Mercury* says a whole stanza is omitted from Mr. Swinburne's poem in *Dark Blue*. "The stanza," he says, "was cut out by the editor, without the author's consent or knowledge; and I am told that the poet refuses to have any further connection with the magazine.

We understand that the national celebration of the Scott centenary will take place at Edinburgh, on Wednesday, 9th August next, under the presidency of the Duke of Buccleuch. The vice-chairmen will be, the Lord Provost of the city, the Earl of Dalhousie, the Lord Justice-General, Lord Jerviswoode, and Sir William Stirling-Maxwell. The festival will be open to ladies and gentlemen on equal terms.

The forty-eighth exhibition of the Royal Academy opened on Monday last with 906 works, including 541 paintings, 356 water-colour drawings, and ten pieces of sculpture. Among the members, the well-known names of A. Clint (President), G. Cole, W. Bayliss, Hayes, H. Moore, J. Tennant, T. Roberts, Woolmer, Wimperis, Hill, and Cobbett sent good examples of their special talents; and too much praise cannot be awarded to the fine landscapes of G. Cole—512, "Old Lock;" 419, "Sunset;" and 299, "Dewy Eve." Seldom have we seen the sentiment of scenes so fully realised. Among the numerous water-colour drawings the works of Wimperis, Pearson, Waignwright, Bayliss, Nottingham, H. Moore, Radford, A. Nicholson, Aumonier, Misses Gilbert, A. Carter, Claxton, and McArthur, will all repay attention. As a good sign of pleasant amity, we may notice that this year the works of five academicians are on the walls. Among the ordinary exhibitors we have worthy of notice the works of V. Bromley, H. McCallum, Foley, Duvall, H. Johnson, W. H. Foster, Lutler, and G. Pope. As a whole the exhibition shows great progress, and that efforts have been successfully made to improve its character. It is rumoured that Mr. Millais's picture of Moses has found a purchaser for £2,000.

In speaking of French sculpture, *Art* says:—"The sad condition of our nearest neighbours, France, has a marked effect in the world of art at the present moment. In Paris, the great atelier and art workshop, little can be produced at the present moment; the artists and the reproducers are not placed in circumstances conducive either to artistic conception or fine workmanship, consequently, the contributions of new works to the International Exhibition at Kensington, from Paris, will, for the moment at least, be few. On the other hand, the late war caused considerable numbers of works of art to be brought to London, and the exhibitions of pictures have been proportionably important. French painting has, however, for years been well represented in this country, and French bronzes and small works of art are familiar to all who have an eye for the beautiful and the decorative. Of French sculpture the English public know far less than of painting and *objets d'art*, and it is with great pleasure that we announce the arrival of a large number of works in marble, terra cotta, and bronze, many of them of the highest character."

Faceache, Toothache, Tic Doloreux.—ADAM SMITH'S NEURALGINE effects a certain cure.—Depôt, 39, Ann-street. Sold by all Chemists; and Gare, Green, Bagott, of Dudley. [107

Oakey's Wellington Knife Polish.—Old knives cleaned constantly with this preparation bear a brilliancy of polish equal to new cutlery. Can be used with any kind of knife-board or knife-cleaning machine. Retail packets 3d. each, and tins 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. each. Wholesale, Oakey and Sons, Wellington Emery and Black Lead Mills, Blackfriars, London.

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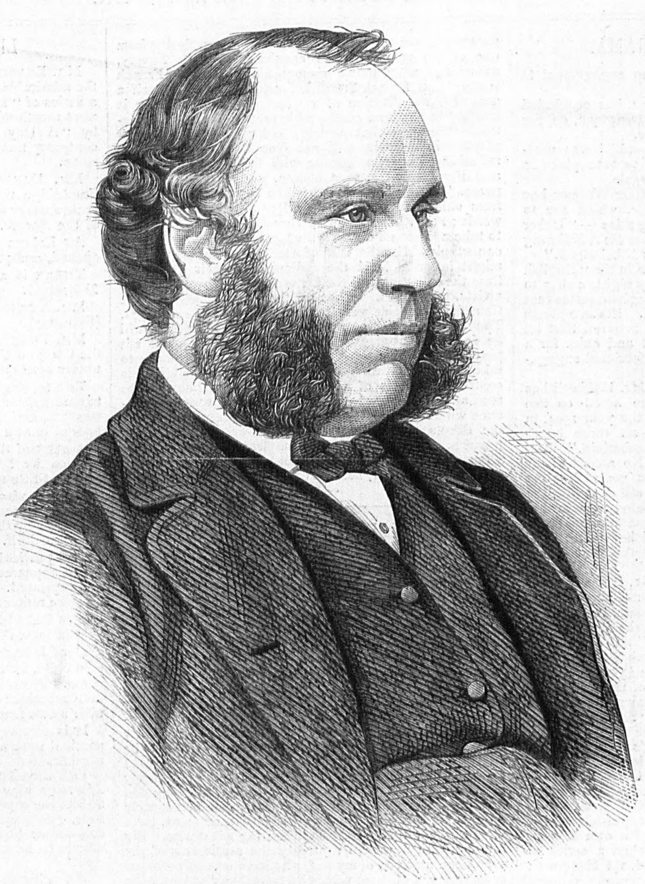
WORKING MEN'S CLUBS AT THE ALBERT HALL.

OUR engraving on this page represents the gathering of the working men's clubs at the Queen's entrance of the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, April 22nd, when they were invited to meet Mr. Edward Hall, for the purpose of hearing from him an explanation of the aim and scope of annual international exhibitions, and their relation with the development of art, science, and industry. The clubs represented were St. Mark's, Bow-common, Brixton, Stratford, South London, London Artisans', Nine-elms, St. Martin's-lane, Stoke Newington, Bermondsey Club and Institute, Southwark, St. James's, Soho, Hackney, Shaftesbury Hall, Bedford Institute, Peckham, Victoria Docks, St. Anne's, and Quebec. The platform was erected in the upper or picture gallery, and the audience occupied the seats on the opposite side of the gallery immediately below. Mr T. Hughes, who presided, having briefly explained the object of the gathering, Mr. Hall commenced his address by asking a series of questions of the audience with the view of testing the acoustic properties of the building, the result of which was highly satisfactory, every word uttered being heard as distinctly as if he were only two or three yards from those whom he was addressing. After going into an elaborate description of the hall and exhibition buildings, he proceeded to draw attention to the origin of international exhibitions and their importance as regards progress, urging that such annual stock-takings, as it were, resulted in the eye of the working man being educated in a manner which could not be attained in any other way. He then alluded to the defects in the arrangements of previous international exhibitions, which he said would be remedied on this occasion, and expressed an opinion that great advantage would be derived from having working men as judges. In conclusion he urged that an establishment of such international exhibitions would lead to mutual good feeling between nations. Mr. Holyoake moved, "That this meeting cordially approves the project of the annual international exhibitions (the first to be opened in May); the realisation of which is calculated to contribute to the progress of art, science, industry, and commerce, the growth of wealth, and the improvement of the social condition of the different classes in each nation of the world, to promote harmony in the relations between the peoples or governments, and ultimately to substitute for the present alternation of armed truce and international strife a general and constant recognition that the interests of each nation are bound up with those of other nations, or that one country or nation has advantages of soil and climate, geographical location or character of the race or people, which another country has not, and that mutual assistance and general economy of production throughout the world would tend towards an eventual state of perfect comfort and happiness of each nation and each individual." Mr. Cremer having seconded the motion, a question was asked from the body of the meeting as to whether it was the intention of the Commissioners to allow the names of artisans who had been engaged upon any work exhibited to be entirely ignored. Colonel Scott, secretary of the Royal Commission, in reply, said it was, as far as practicable, intended to bring out as prominently as possible the actual workman. They were probably aware that in some cases there would be great difficulty in doing this. With regard to the machinery, for instance, more especially in that relating to woollen manufacture, where va parts were made by different workmen, there would be great difficulty, but, in every case where it could be done, the Commissioners were determined to brin out that talent of the actual workman which had on previous occasions been too frequently exhibited in the names of others. (Applause.) He had to express his regret that the building was not in a more advanced state for the inspection of so numerous and respectable an assemblage of the working classes, but he hoped to see them there again when it was thoroughly completed, when they would be better able to form a judgment of its acoustic as well as all its other valuable properties. Votes of thanks were then accorded to Mr. Hall and the chairman, and, the assemblage having inspected the Albert Memorial from the outside gallery of the building, the proceedings terminated.

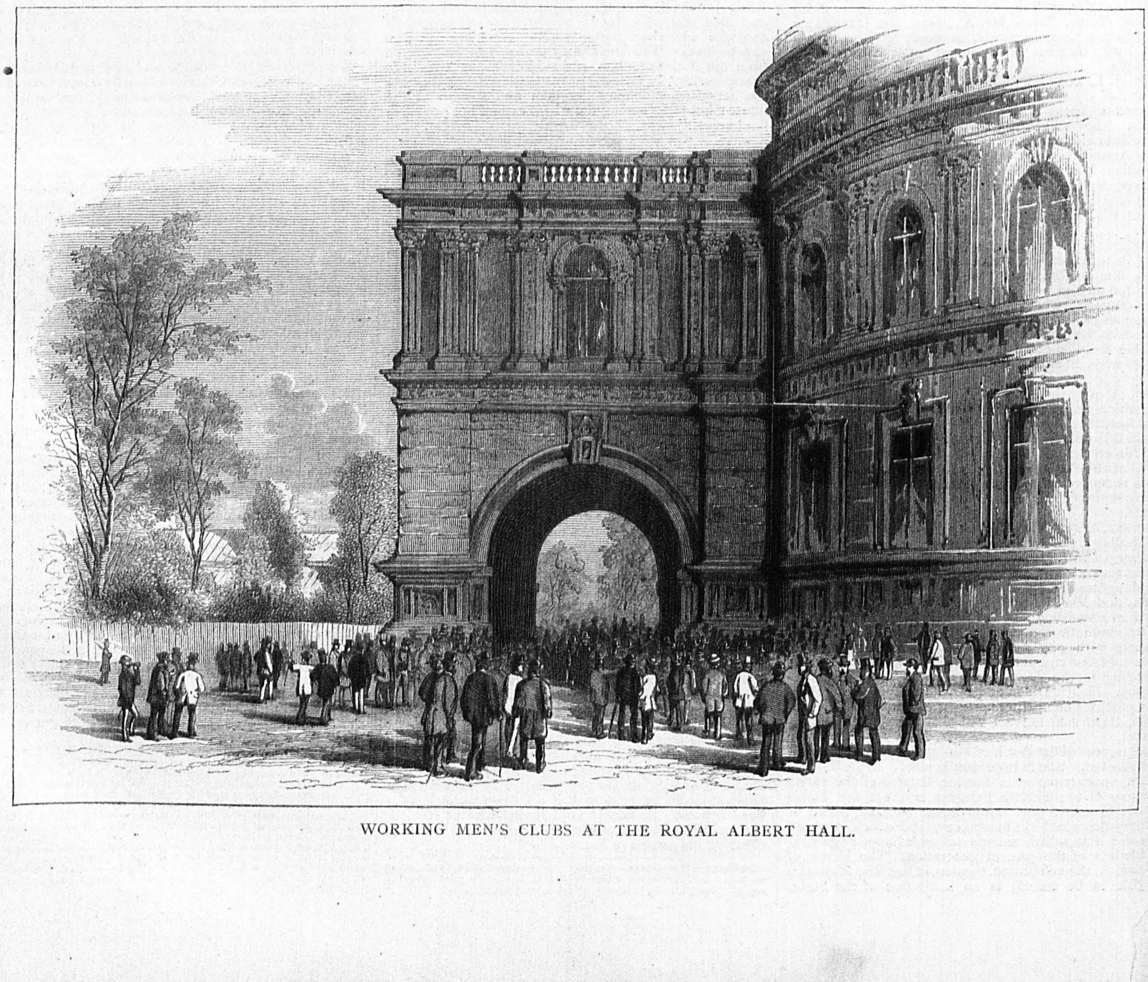


MR. W. H. SMITH, M.P.

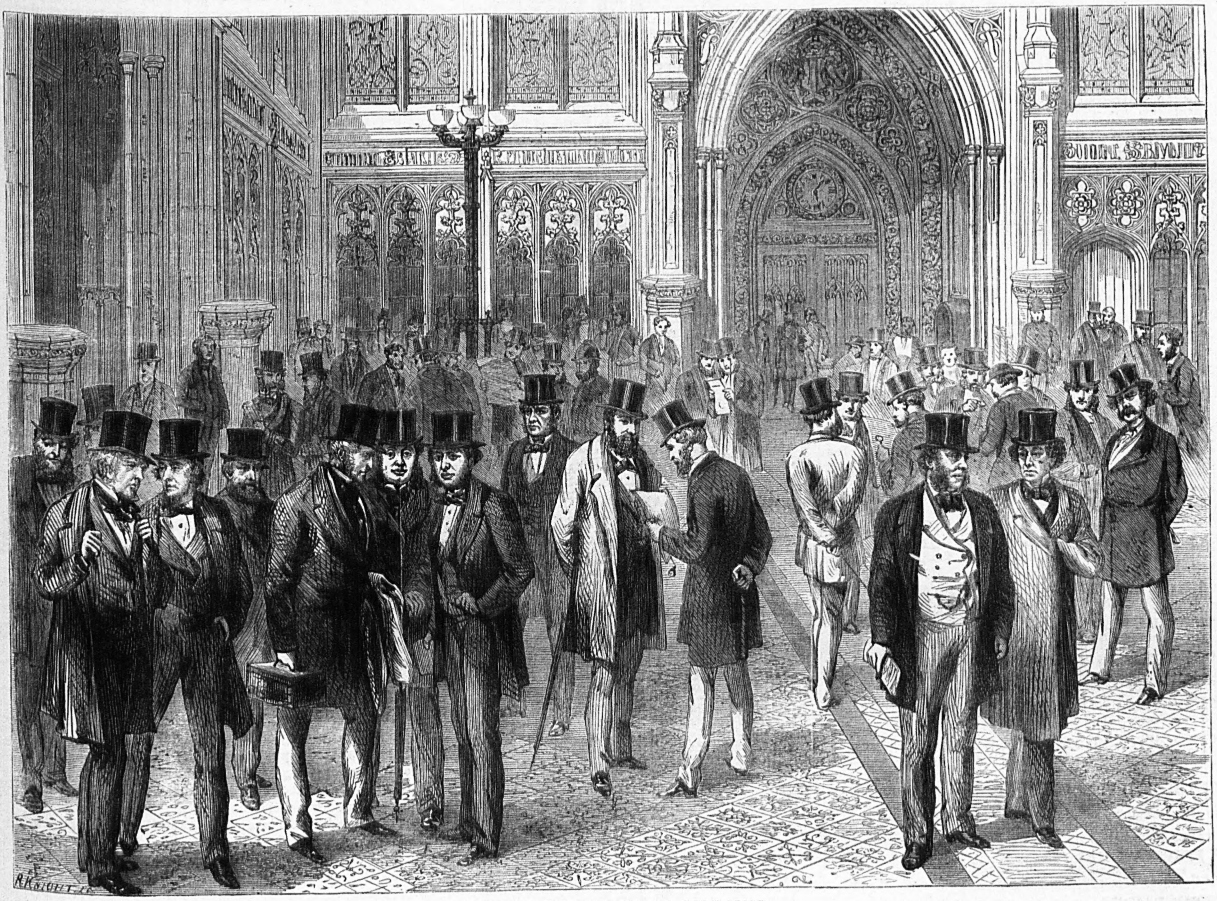
THE Baden Government has decided to abolish all foreign legations.

THE Infante Alphonse Maria of Spain, grandson of Don Carlos, was on Thursday (27th ult.) married to the Princess Maria des Neves of Braganza, eldest daughter of Miguel, in the castle of Prince Lowenstein, at Klein Leubach. The bridegroom was born in 1849, the bride in 1852.

THE threatened strike of about 8,000 house painters in Sheffield has been averted through an interview between the masters and men, which has resulted in an arrangement. Some other trades have obtained a reduction of five and a half hours in their weekly labour.



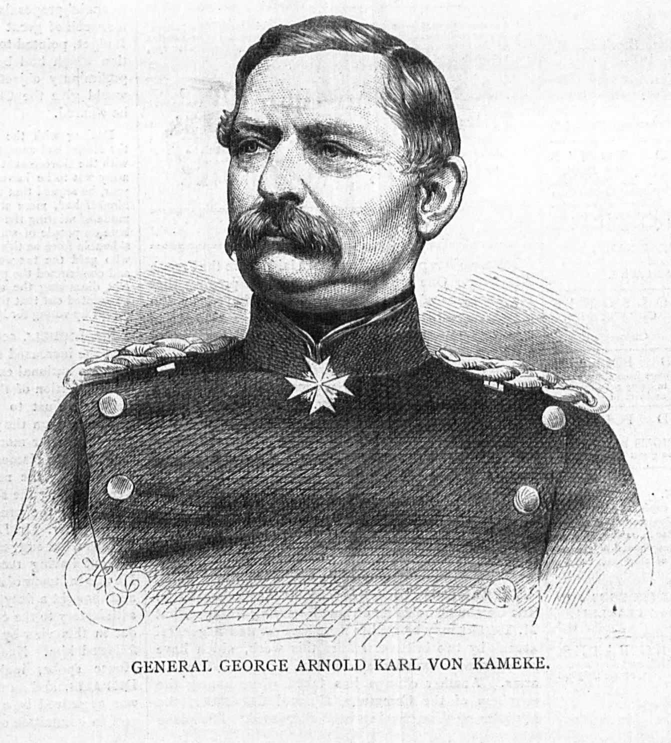
WORKING MEN'S CLUBS AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL.



LOBBY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE LOBBY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

It is a curious fact that the first change in the regulations of the House of Commons made by the Reformed Parliament, elected upon Mr. Disraeli's "leap in the dark," was to exclude the public from the lobby. There are curious anomalies in the history of party, and this is one of them. If a Conservative Government had resolved upon confining the lobby to their own use after the public had so long been accustomed to that political promenade we should no doubt have had a very serious outcry from the Liberal journals; but Mr. Gladstone's Ministry has been permitted to do so thoroughly what it liked that this early interference with the liberty of the subject was allowed to pass over with nothing more than a casual note in some stray London letter of a provincial journal. It was customary, as many of our readers know, for any person respectably dressed, and with a certain amount of self-confidence and assurance, to enter the lobby of the House upon any evening. It was no doubt occasionally inconvenient for members to be buttonholed by officious constituents from the country, but it was nevertheless a convenient rendezvous for London and country politicians who had business with members of the House. There are a few gentlemen, it is true, who are still enabled to obtain admission to this charmed circle of St. Stephen's. These consist of a few secretaries, editors, and agents; and the reader of the ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER this week, wherever he be, is privileged, through our picture, to take his place in this exclusive quarter. Here he will see some of the leading members of the Cabinet and also of Her Majesty's Opposition, the two gentlemen in the foreground being particularly excellent likenesses of the Right Honourable Benjamin Disraeli and Mr. W. H. Smith, the popular member for Westminster. The other portraits, such as Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Lowe, and Mr. Gladstone, will be easily noted by the looker-on. The lobby of the House is a rectangular porch-shaped hall, with a high vaulted roof. It is entered from four points. The public, and therefore the reader upon this occasion, enter the lobby by the north door. The west door communicates with the members' cloak-room; the east door takes you to the refreshment and smoking rooms, and the south is the portal of the House of Commons, over which the reader will observe a clock. On either side of this entrance are two ordinary hall porters' chairs, in which are seated the two elderly guardians of the portal. If you have an appointment with a member, and wish your friend to know that you are waiting for him, you hand your card to one of these officials, who at once takes it into the House. If your Parliamentary friend really wishes to see you, he comes out into the lobby; if he expects a disagreeable communication from some local committee who take exception to his vote upon some recent bill he will probably sit quietly in his place and leave your card unanswered. During the course of the session the porters at the entrance to the House must make a curious collection of address cards, for there are evidently many which never reach the hands of members. Our illustration may be regarded as of special interest at the present moment, when the lobby is once more full of party excitement. The lobby has always been cleared for divisions.



GENERAL GEORGE ARNOLD KARL VON KAMEKE.

THE *Echo du Nord* expresses its disbelief in the probability of a decisive assault on Paris. It says that Marshal M'Mahon has no plan beyond that of wearying out the insurgents by incessant fighting.

THE priests imprisoned in La Conciergerie, Mazas, La Roquette, La Sarthe, and other gaols, are treated with exceptional cruelty and harshness, under which some of them, being very old men, have succumbed.

THE publication of General Cadorna's report to the Italian Minister of War, giving a full description of the movements of the Italian troops in their expedition to Rome, merits the perusal of military men. There is no doubt that the startling events of the Franco-Prussian war very much diverted the attention of professional soldiers from what was going on in the Italian Peninsula. The Italian expedition, however, was no mere military promenade, but a delicate and even dangerous enterprise, which in the event was crowned with complete success. The courage and discipline which the Papal Legion subsequently displayed during the Prussian war prove that Gen. Cadorna had no contemptible foe opposed to him.

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THE BIRMINGHAM MORNING NEWS on the GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE for MAY:—
"The *Gentleman's Magazine* for May is full of pleasant and readable papers. Our old friend, Charles Cowden Clarke, continues his articles on the comic writers of England. . . . Mr. R. H. Horne furnishes a second paper on 'Bygone Celebrities,' discoursing this time on Mr. Nightingale's Diary, introducing us to the famous amateur company of which Dickens was the central star, around whom shone Douglas Jerrold, Mark Lemon—all three, alas! passed to that bourne whence no traveller returns—John Forster, G. J. Lewes, Augustus Egg, and others not unknown to fame. This article is of the deepest interest, and will, doubtless, attract many readers. . . . There are nine other papers, the usual 'Table Talk,' and a genial preface by Sylvanus Urban in the current number, which make the *Gentleman's Magazine* one of the best shilling investments that periodical literature now offers to the reading public."

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⁎ ADVERTISEMENTS cannot be received after 12 o'clock on Wednesdays.

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THE Illustrated NEWSPAPER

LONDON, MAY 6, 1871.

SOME curious petitions have been laid before the French Assembly. One was recently presented praying that the expenses of the war should be defrayed by the promoters of it. Among these were included as the chief criminals the ex-Emperor NAPOLEON and the leading senators of the last days of the Empire. The petition was at once rejected. The *Daily News* correspondent at Versailles mentions another eccentric petition which was reported upon last Monday. It was from M. SAIX, of Bougezet, praying for a State grant to enable him to manufacture a diamond of his own invention, the sale of which, he assured the Assembly, would go far to pay the war indemnity. The petition was discussed at some length, and the Sub-Prefect of Loiret certified that he believed the invention to be a good one. A member suggested that it should be referred to CAGLIOSTRO, but finally the previous question was voted and the subject dropped.

THERE is little change this week in the news from Paris. The Commune holds its own with varying fortunes, but M. THIERS may be said to have inaugurated a general assault by two brilliant affairs this week, which have ended in no inconsiderable victories for the Government arms. Another change has taken place among the members of the Commune, General CLUSERET, the Minister of War, having been dismissed. His place is occupied by General ROSSEL, who, in a short speech accepting office, said he had need of the thorough co-operation of the Commune in order to meet the difficulties of the position. It was thought that General CLUSERET would be arrested by order of the Central Committee. His enemies charge him with a desire to become Dictator. General OKOLOWICZ, a Polish officer of some distinction, who had accepted service under the Commune, has been so severely wounded that it has become necessary for him to resign his command. He is succeeded by General DURASSIER. The *Times* correspondent at Versailles thinks the Commune have somewhat lost ground during the last few days. He believes the growing antagonism between the authority of the Hotel de Ville and that of the Central Committee is hastening towards a catastrophe which cannot but be fatal to the former. On the 1st of May Fort Issy hoisted a flag of truce, and a *parlementaire* from the Government lines proceeded to the fort to convey to the insurgents the conditions upon which the garrison would be allowed to capitulate. The Communists, however, declined to accede to the stipulations of the Government. The negotiations for surrender were broken off in the evening, the bombardment resumed, and eventually the garrison sustained a severe defeat. The municipal elections seem to have passed off without much disturbance, except at Lyons and Rouen. A factious minority obtained possession of the Mairie of Lyons; the troops marched against them, headed by General CROUZOT and the Prefect, M. VALENTIN, and at once dispersed the disaffected crowd, but the Prefect was severely wounded. At Rouen the ex-Councillor-General and five hundred supposed agents of the "International" have been arrested. The elections were marked by very numerous abstentions. The members chiefly returned are described either as Conservative Republicans or Bonapartists. The result is regarded as decidedly adverse to the extreme Right and the present Assembly, though Versailles affects to regard the elections as highly favourable.

A GREAT party debate and division in the House of Commons were expected on Monday night. The result is somewhat disappointing to the public, although it is exactly what thoughtful politicians might have expected. Neither Mr. GLADSTONE'S supporters nor the Opposition could wish for a political crisis at the present moment. It would be highly inconvenient for Liberal members to meet their constituents on the hustings just now, and the Conservatives can hardly be said to be in a position to take the reins of Government. Notwithstanding some heart-burnings and bickerings among the various sections of the Liberal party, they rallied to the support of their chief on Monday night with all the unanimity which characterised his former popularity. The debate of the evening was opened by Mr. W. H. SMITH, who moved the following resolution, of which he had given notice:—"That it is inexpedient that the income tax should be increased to the extent contemplated in the financial proposals of the Government." Mr. SMITH in a speech of great force summarised the history of the Budget, pointed to the unanimous verdict of condemnation which had been pronounced upon it, and took a preliminary objection to the latest proposals that they would give the Chancellor of the Exchequer more than he wanted.

Dealing with the expenditure he maintained that, though the House had accepted the estimates, the responsibility rested with the Government; and, as to the plea of "transition," if the army was to be increased this year merely to be reduced next year, he argued that the estimates were extravagant. Mr. Lowe himself had, more strongly than any one, condemned his own mode of meeting the deficit, and had pointed out how hardly it bore on people of small incomes. Mr. Smith dwelt with considerable force on this point, maintaining that four-fifths of those who paid the tax were persons struggling with limited means, and condemned the proposed increase as harsh and unnecessary. Not discussing the suggested alternatives for the income tax, he pointed out that their authors could not have them considered except by voting for his motion.

Mr. LIDDELL seconded the motion. He maintained that the increased expenditure was not transitional, that it was a national expenditure and ought not to be borne by one portion of the people, and especially that it was grossly unjust to charge the expense of abolishing purchase upon the payers of income tax. Mr. LIDDELL'S speech was far more of a party attack than that of Mr. SMITH. He blamed the Government in severe terms for squandering the revenue, at the same time that they were reducing the services. His courage was not toned down with the prudence that dictated the remarks of his proposer. Mr. LIDDELL not only attacked Ministerial blunders, but suggested how to raise the money required without having recourse to an increased income tax. He was in favour of abandoning the abolition of purchase, and thought a duty imposed on corn would be perfectly satisfactory to the country. He was not, however, borne out in this view by the gentlemen on his own side who followed him. Nearly all the leading members of the House spoke, including Mr. GLADSTONE and Mr. DISRAELI, and on the division Mr. SMITH'S resolution was negatived by a majority of eighty-five; 335 to 250, and in committee of ways and means the income tax was agreed to. The *Times*, in an article on the debate on Tuesday, says the majority rejected the amendment of Mr. SMITH, not because they disapproved its principle, but because they wished to support the Administration. The *Times* says:—

> "Mr. W. H. Smith put his case on the simplest and strongest ground. The new Budget, in violation of Mr. Lowe's own maxims, imposed the whole burden of the additional expenditure on the payers of income tax—a class so straitened that four-fifths of those assessed under Schedule D pay on incomes of less than £300 a year. Mr. Smith spoke of the persons thus doomed to sustain the obligation of duties that ought to be national with a sympathy which was in marked contrast with the easy indifference with which Mr. Pease, who followed almost immediately, contemplated the tax as visiting only those of ample means. Mr. Pease was the first apologist of the Ministry, and struck the keynote of the discussion by asking consideration for them in their difficulties. Mr. Osborne Morgan took the same line, and Mr. Richard and Sir John Lubbock, though condemning their cause, melted with sympathy for them in their distress. The real question before the House was thus conveniently slipped aside."

It has been the fate of the strongest Governments to over-rate the influence and power of a large majority. Mr. GLADSTONE has had several warnings in this direction.

OUR GRATIS SUPPLEMENT.

SATURDAY afternoon at the Crystal Palace is *la mode*. It is the season ticket-holder's day. Mater and Pater take the children down on Saturday afternoons. Gustavus and Clementina honour the London fairy-land on the half-crown day. My lord and lady now and then desert the Park for a drive to the Palace on this last day in the week. The intelligent foreigner is always there, but even Monsieur and Madame prefer the Palace with its Saturday airs. Our artist has selected the fashionable time for the picture which we give to our readers this week. It is a scene in the Tropical Court, full of spirit and character. *Habitués* of the Palace will recognise at once the fidelity of the work. Our artist has caught the poetic inspiration of the scene without any sacrifice of its realistic details.

Our French visitors are prominent here, as they are just now at all our places of public amusement and instruction. The two gentlemen consulting the catalogue are to be met everywhere. We saw them at the Academy on Monday. They were at the Albert Hall yesterday. The pretty mother and child in the foreground are types of London beauty which gladden English hearts and ennoble English homes. On the left we have an example of French loveliness. Our artist has gracefully contrasted the pretty women of the two nations, and without detracting from the peculiar charms of either.

Many of our subscribers, we find, are in the habit of framing our Supplements. Where they are preserved for binding with the ordinary half-yearly volumes, the binder should be cautioned to insert a "guard" to protect the double pages.

THE MINUET.

When your lithe fingers pressed the ivory keys,
  And from them drew the minuet's quaint measure,
You took me back to days not like to these,
  When both for dance and song there seemed more leisure.

I saw the dainty dames in high-heeled shoes
  And satin kirtles; with an old-world grace
I saw the cavaliers their partners choose,
  And, smiling, lead them at a stately pace.

Then, stealthy sleep o'ertook me by surprise,
  And you and I were dancing with the rest;
Your hair was different, powdered, but your eyes
  And face were nothing altered. You were dressed

In primrose satin; many a violet
  Was broidered on it, but their sweet perfume
Your every motion fragrantly beset,
  And with a spring-like odour filled the room;
Until I woke, because you ceased to play,
And on light wing my dreaming flew away.

ST. GERMAIN.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—This cooling medicine may be used with the happiest effects when the blood is overheated and a tendency to inflammatory action appears in the system; a course of one Pill a day taken shortly before dinner does away with the indigestion, fulness, and flatulency—indications of a weak stomach or disordered liver. A few Pills taken at bedtime act as alteratives and aperients; they not only relieve the bowels, but regulate every organ connected with them, overcome all acrid humours, and encourage a free supply of all the secretions essential to our well-being. Holloway's Pills thoroughly cleanse and perfectly regulate the circulation, and in hot climates and high temperatures induce that feeling of comfort which is the pleasing accompaniment of a high state of health. [42

PATENT TEETH ON SOFT GUMS.—Mr. WILLIAM J. WATSON, Surgeon Dentist, 16, Newhall Street, Birmingham, begs to inform the inhabitants of the Midland Counties that he is the SOLE INVENTOR and DISCOVERER of a new system of fixing PATENT TEETH on SOFT GUMS, and he being the actual Maker, is enabled to supply Teeth *at about one-third the usual charges*. Single Teeth from 3s. 6d. each; Sets from £2 10s., including all charges. Perfectly fitted at one visit. Attendance daily from nine a.m. till eight p.m. Consultation free. [164

BEAUTIFUL HAIR.—THE PLAIN TRUTH.—If people will only use Mrs. S. A. ALLEN'S PREPARATIONS, they will have no trouble about their Hair. Mrs. ALLEN'S WORLD'S HAIR RESTORER will positively and certainly restore the natural original colour in every case of greyness, no matter from what cause it arises—the hair is stimulated to natural growth. The "Zylobalsamum," as a hair-dressing for young and old, is the best article that can be used; it imparts a gloss and vigorous appearance to the hair very beautiful to see. The Restorer, 6s.; the Zylobalsamum, 3s. (Separate preparations—not at all necessary to be used together.)—Depôt, 266, High Holborn, London. Sold by all Chemists and Perfumers. [366

FLORILINE!!—For the Teeth and Breath.—A few drops of the FRAGRANT FLORILINE on a wet tooth brush produces a delightful foam, which cleanses the teeth from all impurities, strengthens and hardens the gums, prevents tartar, and arrests the progress of decay. It gives to the Teeth a peculiar and beautiful whiteness, and imparts a delightful fragrance to the breath. It removes all unpleasant odour arising from decayed Teeth, a disordered stomach, or tobacco smoke. The Fragrant Floriline is purely vegetable, and equally adapted to old and young. It is the greatest Toilet discovery of the age. Sold in elegant cases, complete, at 2s. 6d., by all Chemists and Perfumers.—H. C. GALLUP, Proprietor, 493, Oxford-street, London. [156

MAGAZINES FOR MAY.

"BEN JONSON" is the subject of Mr. Charles Cowden Clarke's second instalment in the *Gentleman's* "On the Comic Writers of England." It is an exhaustive essay, wherein the author quotes what he regards as the best comic productions of Jonson, and gives an honest opinion as to their merit. Mr. Clarke believes that Jonson's scholastic accomplishments encumbered his genius, as David was encumbered with Saul's armour. "His scenes are apt to be of interminable length and drouth; he wire-draws prodigiously, and his classical citations (when he strikes upon that vein) appear to have no end." Jonson's comic pieces were for his own age, and are little known to the general reader, but Shakespeare's friend wrote poetry that will live as long as the language in which it is written. Who has not admired the song, "Drink to Me only with thine Eyes"? or those beautiful lines to Cynthia commencing, "Queen and huntress, chaste and fair, now the sun is laid to sleep"? It is in Jonson's poetical writings that the "extreme correctness and strict propriety of language" (which Mr. Clarke sets down as characteristic of his genius) show to advantage. The verses do not come to us as rough lines severely polished; they are not laboured, but easy, flowing, and complete—full of graceful first touches rather than finishing strokes. B. J. (not J. B., sir) was by tradition "an excessive self-estimator, if not self-worshipper," and there are other traits against him, but he was a "rare Ben" for all that. His was a noble nature. He was "free from vulgar envy and untinctured with malice," for although Shakespeare and himself had quarrelled, he wrote of Shakespeare "I do *love* the man, and *honour* his memory, *on this side of idolatry*, as much as any. He was indeed honest and of an open nature." And Mr. Cowden Clarke himself seems to follow this example, for although he quarrels with Ben (if we may say so) he finishes his article with "*I like the man* and his sterling qualities, and wish I could have heard him and his brother wits in one of their high intellectual carnivals at the Mermaid." We shall look anxiously for the June number of the *Gentleman's*. Mr. Clarke will, no doubt, take us to the Mermaid Tavern for his next subject, and show us probably "our pleasant Willy," and gossip genially of "that same gentle spirit, from whose pen large streames of honnie and sweete nectar did flowe."

Mr. Edward A. Freeman contributes an article to *Macmillan's* on "The Panic and its Lessons," which, although loosely written, is full of good sense and argument. The writer says we have just been passing through one of those curious fits of panic which ever and anon seize upon the English nation, and which, after exciting everybody for a little while, die away and are forgotten. Twice or thrice within the writer's memory has all Britain been "mightily alarmed for fear of the French." He says it is a good many years ago, but he distinctly remembers that Mr. Martin Tupper "made some very patriotic verses on one occasion. There was a line, 'Englishmen, arm, up with your rifles,' and the verse that rimed to it was something about not 'standing on trifles.'" By the bye we do not well understand that word "rimed" as used above. "Rime," in our dictionary, signifies a "hoar frost, a chink, hole." Mr. Freeman may be indulging in a stroke of satire at the expense of Mr. Tupper. If we remember aright this would not be the first time the author of "Proverbial Philosophy" has been the subject of a joke. The "panic" is the excitement that was brought about by Prince Gortschakoff's circular, and its lessons are that we must always be ready to hold our own, look well to our army and navy, and give the world to understand that England is still able and willing to fight rather than be insulted or humbugged either by Russia, Prussia, or "that heathen Chinee." The writer of "An Age of Lead" mourns over the present condition of journalism. He argues that we must deny the evidence of our senses if we deny that the best type of journalism in 1871 is inferior to the best type of journalism in 1823. "We have all the grave parts, but what has become of the gay? Journalism, however, is *par excellence* the mirror of the age, and we suppose it is not without reason that puns and poems, classical disquisitions and lively charades, have given way to the heavy artillery of parliamentary debates, money articles, commercial meetings, and foreign correspondence." We think this a very lame complaint. There is such a variety of papers that the reader can purchase according to his tastes, whatever they may be. If puns are wanted we can recommend the *Figaro*. The writer exclaims, "Oh that some enterprising editor would try his knife on the parliamentary debates!" We can sympathise with this lament, and think the parliamentary debates are really overdone. The morning papers come out with pages of speeches, which are not only dry repetitions of the previous day, but exclude more interesting matter, and very often more important. This system also encourages obscure members, or members who have a weakness for print, to launch forth into what they believe to be high flights of oratory. "It is really astonishing how they get up, night after night, and, assuring the House that they will detain it only a few minutes, proceed to deliver a carefully prepared speech which lasts two hours by the clock." In concluding, the writer exclaims, "And oh! reader, let us stop this habit [of making long speeches] before ladies are admitted to Parliament; for, bless their hearts, it will never be stopped afterwards."

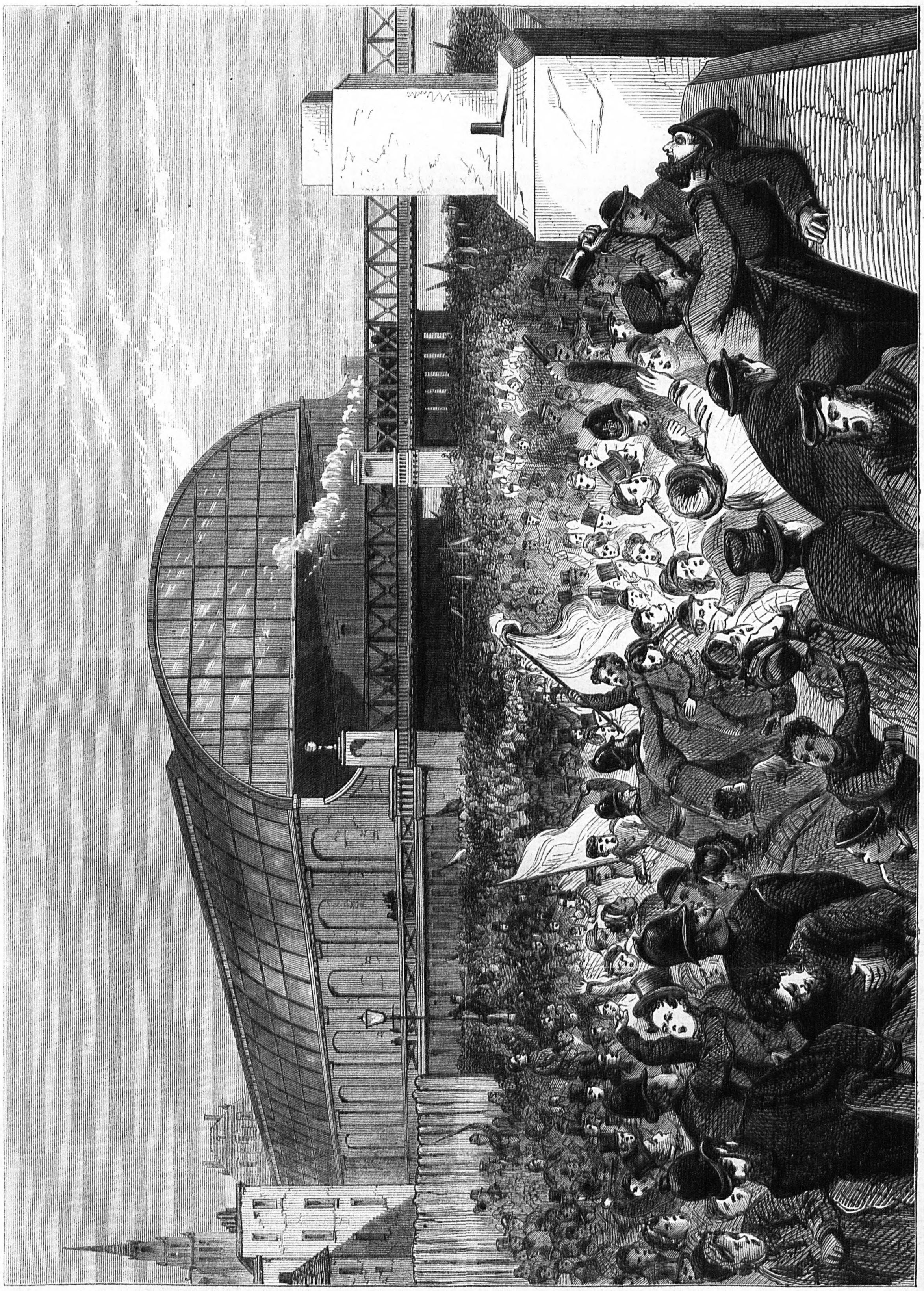
Belgravia is very attractive. Besides four chapters of "The Lovels of Arden," which is being pleasantly unfolded, there are ten papers and tales, and three poems. Perhaps the most interesting contribution is Mr. G. A. Sala's, entitled "The Power of the Keys." A poem to May, bright May, "the merry month of May," should not be sorrowful. Mr. Mew's lines begin smoothly and well, but in a poem to May it is a mistake to write of sad thoughts and of "dark woes and death." "Juliet," by F. W. Lawson, is one of the best illustrations we have ever seen in a magazine.

THE FIGHTING BEFORE PARIS.

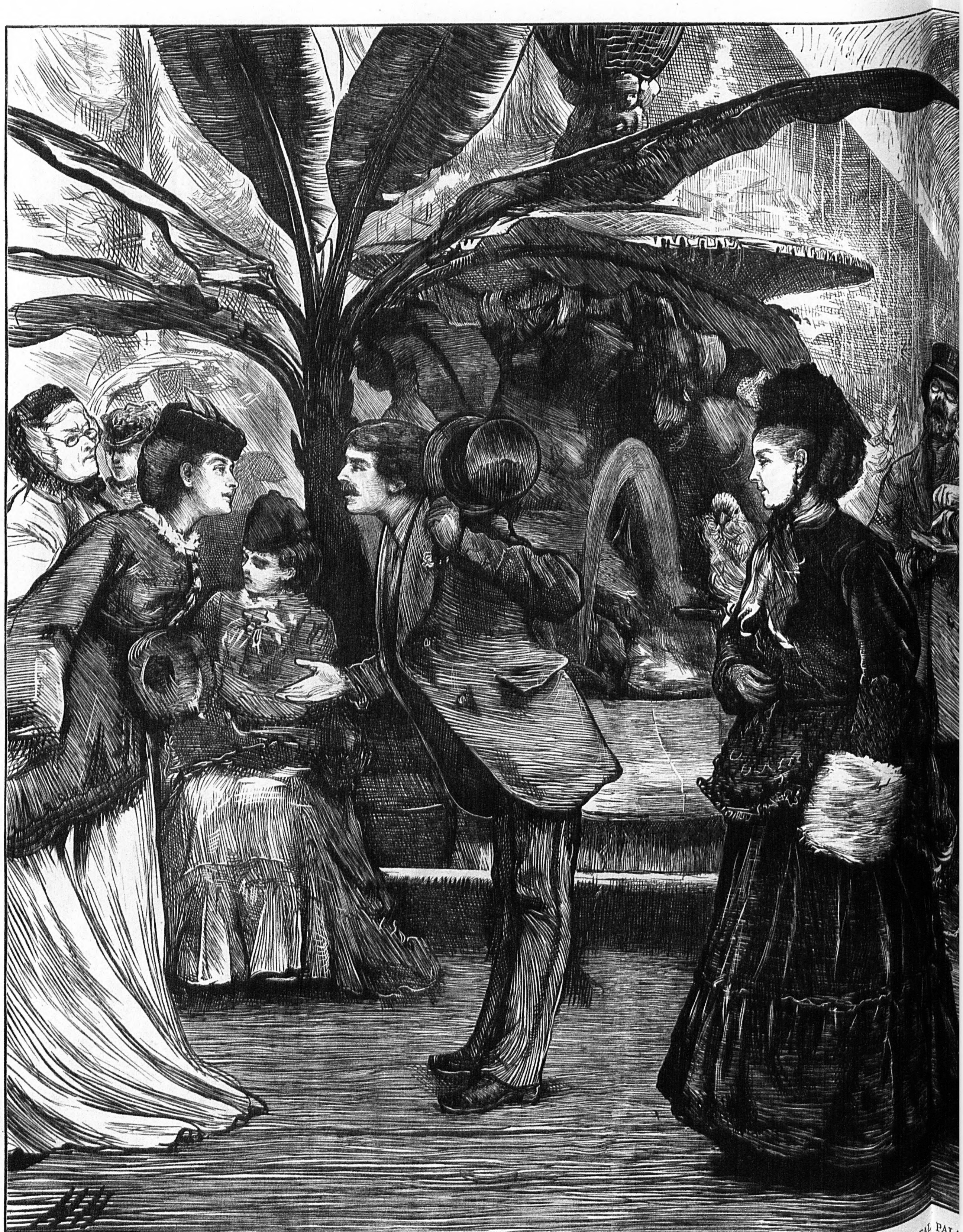
THERE has been some desperate fighting before Paris during the past week, resulting in important changes. Although they have met with great reverses, the Reds have fought obstinately, but they are losing ground day by day, and the end must soon come to their terrible reign in the unfortunate city.

The Paris correspondent of the *Standard*, writing on Sunday, says:—Last night, under a pouring rain, I witnessed from the top of the viaduct of Auteuil one of the most striking sights I ever beheld. About eight o'clock the din of a heavy cannonade in the south was distinctly audible in the centre of the town, and I lost no time in proceeding to the one point of vantage from whence the eye can embrace the hills that gird Paris to the south from Bagneaux to St. Cloud, the forts of Vanves and Issy, a portion of the *enceinte* covering the suburbs of Vaugirard, and the Seine from Point du Jour to very nearly the bridge of Jena. When I reached the Point du Jour I had some little difficulty in getting up to the viaduct, but it was soon overcome by a little diplomacy and civility, and I was thus enabled to view the terrific fire which the troops of Versailles kept up on that luckless structure which was once the fort of Issy. It was raining fiercely overhead, but the sky was perfectly clear over the hills and part of the valley. On the left and right the bastions on either side of the Seine were firing furiously, and every now and then a gunboat crept out from under the arches of the bridge just below the viaduct and fired its one big gun. Issy was dark, utterly silent, and apparently deserted, but the sight of sights was the firing of the Versailles batteries from Meudon well to the right of the spectator stationed on the railway bridge to Chatillon on the extreme left; the fire began invariably from the right; and gun after gun was discharged in succession with a rapidity and regularity which showed that they must have been worked by well-trained troops; flash followed flash, just showing for a brief space less than a second the embrasures and ground about the battery, and coming down successively to within a short distance of Issy, and then going up the hill again towards Chatillon. The fort of Issy itself was made visible only by the shells bursting in it or over it. Then a short pause followed, and when the echo from the last gun at Chatillon had died away, the first gun at Meudon again opened fire. A curious effect was also produced by the shells from Paris bursting over Moulinceaux (the plateau, not the village); all the bastions, the gunboats, and also the fort of Vanves, kept up a convergent fire on that position, and as many must have fallen both in the village and in the adjoining little town of Sevres, they cannot but have caused some heavy casualties among the troops at Versailles. This bombardment went on uninterruptedly until ten o'clock. The rain-squalls at times swept over the hill, dimming the bright flashes of the Versailles batteries, and imparting a muffled sound to their clear ring; and as by that time I was wet through I was about to beat a retreat, when broad sheets of flame leapt up from the trees just above Moulinceaux, and the unpleasant rattle of the mitrailleuse tore across the air. The bastions immediately increased their fire, and the Meudon batteries, in reply, began shelling them, and sent a good many projectiles both into the river and against the pillars of the viaduct; the mitrailleuse fire was kept up, and then a few minutes later the hill side between Issy and Moulinceaux became dotted with stars of fire, which flashed for the tenth part of a second and went out again; they danced up the hill and down the hill, went forward and went back, and the mitrailleuse every minute fired its grating volley. It was evident from this that the garrison of Issy were making an attack on the position of Moulinceaux, and that these will-of-the-wisps along the road were the fire of their muskets, the report of which, as they advanced, grew very distinct; but after several more mitrailleuse discharges, the fiery stars gradually retired towards Issy, and spread into the woods above; Chatillon and the Moulin de Pierre batteries then opened, and shells bursting above the ground, gave a transient glimpse of bodies of infantry in straggling order; the musketry fire gradually subsided; and then the Versailles batteries opened fire again with tenfold fury. There was no reply from Issy, and even Vanves kept quiet; shell after shell fell into the river and burst over the bastions of the town, and it was not until twelve o'clock that the firing subsided, and the batteries, which had been firing twenty shots a minute, discharged but one in ten.

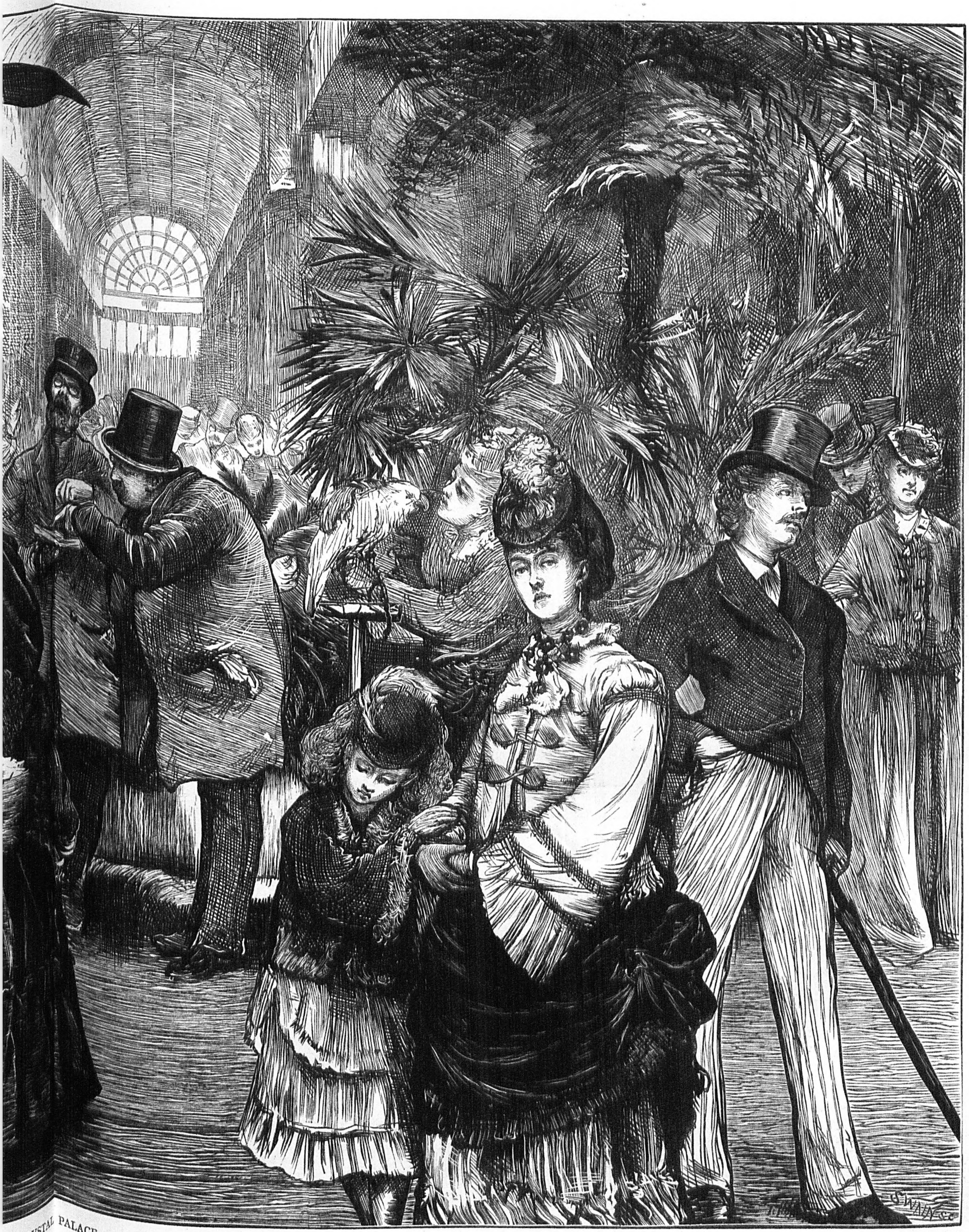
The Parisian corrrespondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, under date of Sunday evening, writes:—The Federals on Friday made a desperate attempt to recover the bridge of Asnières, and dashed at it in a manner which did them great credit. Their attack was supported by some heavy pieces on the ramparts and the plated engines, which steamed into action with the utmost gallantry. The regulars, not anticipating so bold a movement, were driven away from their first barricade after a sharp struggle, in which both parties suffered heavy loss; they retired to their second line of defence, and took up position behind the ruins of the railway station. Encouraged by their first success, the Federals attempted to carry the new position occupied by the enemy, and, in spite of a heavy fire which severely galled them, they made considerable progress. To aid the principal attack 400 men were thrown across the Seine in boats, and General Okolowicz led on this reinforcement, encouraging his troops with word and action. However, the second position was found too difficult. The regulars received reinforcements, and a new battery established between Courbevoie and Cherlebourg opening fire, determined the National Guard to fall back to the positions which they had occupied in the morning. However, the great point of interest has now shifted from Neuilly and Sablonville to poor Issy, which lies at the present moment like a stranded ship firing signals of distress. This morning she could still show her colours, but whether she will survive the night is a doubtful question.



THE MATCHMAKERS' DEMONSTRATION: CAPTURE OF THE REPUBLICAN FLAG ON THE THAMES EMBANKMENT.



SATURDAY AFTERNOON AT THE CRYSTAL PALA

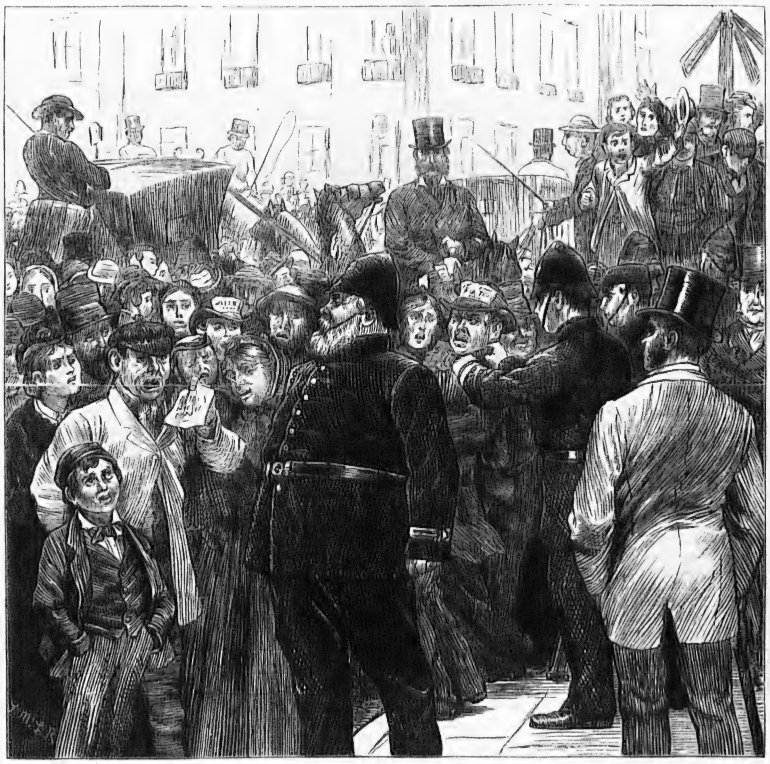


ie Crystal Palace: Scene in the Tropical Court.

THE MATCHMAKERS' DEMONSTRATION.

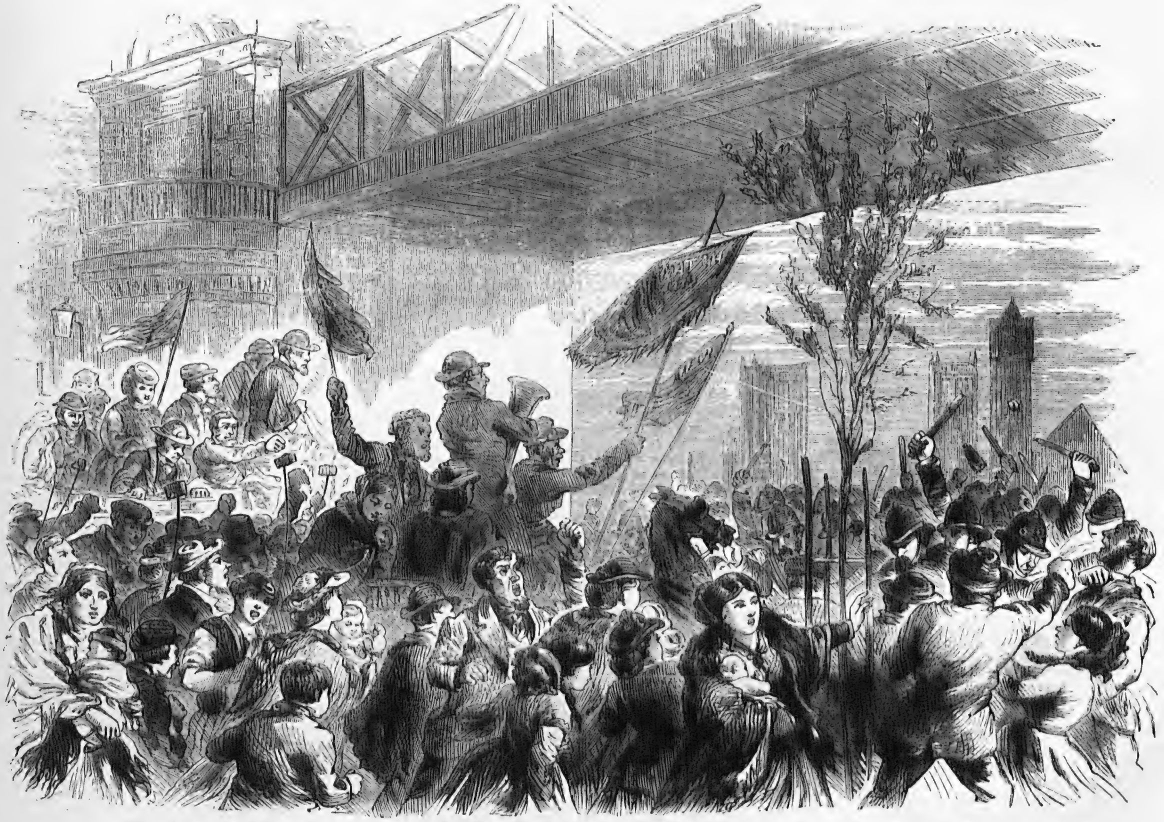
OUR readers are well acquainted with the circumstances attending the demonstration of the matchmakers against Mr. Lowe's proposal to impose a tax upon matches, which took place on the 24th ult. We will therefore confine ourselves to describing our illustrations of the incident.

The procession, made up of men, women, and children, of whom there are about 30,000 employed in the match factories in the metropolis, started from Bow-road on their way to the Houses of Parliament at two o'clock, marching through the City and along the Thames Embankment. They had mustered two or three carts, several brass bands, and carried white flags inscribed with texts pertinent to the question at issue. As the first of the column approached the Charing-cross railway bridge, a line of police two deep confronted them, and the matchmakers were given to understand that the procession could not proceed. They forced their way up, however, and then came the disturbance which our artist has depicted on the opposite page and below. The matchmakers tried to push their way through, and the result was a very lively scrimmage, which completely disorganised the procession, and also astonished the staff of police, one of the number only narrowly escaping from being hurled over the balustrade into the Thames, where banners, and, it is said, a petition as well, had already been thrown. At this point they were beaten, and broken up into groups small enough to be ordered to move on. Hundreds passed the police and went on to Westminster. Here they proved too many for the preservers of the peace, and about two hundred succeeded in entering the hall, and were making their way to the lobby of the House. The matchmakers, however, were driven back on either side of the roadway facing Palace-yard, where they amused themselves by hooting and applauding the different members as they passed on their way to the House. Our first illustration on this page shows some of the enemies of Mr. Lowe at Westminster taunting the police. Had the Chancellor of the Exchequer driven or walked down to the House along the ordinary route, his reception, in all probability, would not have been cordial. Mr. Lowe, knowing the state of affairs, went from Downing-street to St. James's Park Station of the Metropolitan District Railway, and, alighting at Westminster Bridge, passed under the subway reserved for the members of the House, and, proceeding along the courtyard, to the Lords' entrance, avoided the crowd altogether.



THE MATCHMAKERS' DEMONSTRATION: SCENE AT WESTMINSTER.

THE POLICE AND THE MATCHMAKERS.—That the interference of the Executive with the orderly and peaceable procession was singularly unfortunate seems to be generally admitted, but no one seems to doubt, after Mr. Bruce's answer to Mr. B. Cochrane, that it was perfectly legal. The statute on which Mr. Bruce relies for his justification is the 57 George III., cap 19. This Act was passed to prevent the meeting of factious and seditious persons for the purpose, or under the pretext, of deliberating on public grievances, and of agreeing on petitions or complaints to the Houses of Parliament; and it enacted that "no meeting shall be holden for the purpose or on the pretext of considering of or preparing any petition, &c., for the alteration of matters established in Church or State," or "for the purpose of deliberating upon any grievance in Church or State," except on certain specified conditions. Not one word is said in the Act about a procession to present a petition to Parliament.—*Globe.*



THE MATCHMAKERS' DEMONSTRATION: THE PROCESSION AT HUNGERFORD BRIDGE—COLLISION WITH THE POLICE.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

AT a late meeting of the Birmingham Republican Club, a Mr. Cottell, the President, announced that they did not intend to dethrone Queen Victoria.

THIS season has been the wettest known in Australia for twelve years, causing severe losses to flockmasters.

THE oldest inhabitant in the parish of Hawarden, Sarah Clarke, has died at Pentreobun, near Hawarden, having attained the age of 109 years.

A RESIDENT in one of the London districts stated in the "married and single" column of his census schedule that he "hoped to be married in a month."

THE Channel Squadron will shortly proceed to sea, and is expected to be absent from England during the whole of the summer. Lisbon is mentioned as the rendezvous.

A MOVEMENT has been commenced in Monmouthshire with the view of inducing coroners to discontinue holding inquests in public-houses where practicable.

THE *Freeman's Journal* announces that the Prince and Princess of Wales will visit Ireland in the second week of August.

THE famous Père Hyacinthe, it is stated, has just arrived in the Eternal City, with a view of commencing a series of public lectures.

IT is understood that the Princess of Wales will return to London next week.

THE King of Bavaria is seriously indisposed.

AT Perth a man has been fined £350 for illicit distillation.

IT is officially announced that the navigation of the harbour of Kiel is so far opened that the channel between the red buoys and the western shore is free.

THE illness of Lord Penzance was an attack of giddiness. His lordship has happily recovered.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made in Leeds for the reception of the Social Science Association this year.

THOSE who do not love their mothers-in-law will rejoice to hear that during the past five years twenty-seven of Brigham Young's mothers-in-law have died.

BILLINGSGATE is to be enlarged. The Common Council has resolved to expend £150,000 for this purpose.

THE population of Worksop is 10,405, being an increase of 2,044 in the ten years.

THE *Telegraph* trusts that with his Budget to remodel Mr. Lowe will leave the poor man alone, and ask those to pay who have most to lose.

THE German army has been fixed at 400,000 as its "peace footing." The cost of this immense force will be 90,000,000 thalers, or somewhere about £13,500,000.

THE Edinburgh house painters are agitating for an increase of a halfpenny per hour in the rate of wages.

RECENTLY a party of Sonora scalp-hunters captured fifty hostile Apaches near the border of Sonora and Arizona. The Mexican Government pays 200 dollars for each scalp, and the State of Sonora the same.

THE Rev. Dr. Cotterill, Bishop of Grahams-town, has been unanimously elected Coadjutor Bishop of Edinburgh.

BOSTON proposes a tunnel to East Boston, to cost 2,168,170 dollars.

THERE are seventeen ex-rebel officers in the present House of Representatives.

SEVERAL cattle trains to Paris have been stopped at St. Denis.

JOHN ZOHNER has been sentenced at Vienna to twenty years' imprisonment, in heavy irons, for the murder of the commercial student Bregina.

IT has been resolved to invite the British Association to Glasgow in 1874.

THE financial position of the Paris Commune is in a very unsatisfactory state. Its daily expenses amount to 700,000fr. or 800,000fr., and its receipts to 500,000fr. or 600,000fr.

INSTRUCTIONS have been issued from Versailles that if either General Garibaldi or his sons enter France they are to be immediately arrested.

ANOTHER trade difficulty is threatened in Sheffield. The spring-blade forgers and smithers are agitating for a rise of wages, and intend to form themselves into a union to accomplish their purpose.

THE Duke of Argyll has consented to receive the proposed deputation from the East India Association on the subject of the Paumben Channel, but the day has not yet been fixed.

THE returns of last week show a further decrease of pauperism in the metropolis.

A TELEGRAM from Colon represents the losses from the floods in Peru as much greater than was first estimated.

HENRI ROCHEFORT has just fought a duel with Citizen Gromier. No injury was done to either party.

A VIENNA telegram in the *Eastern Budget* says that the Austro-Hungarian Red Book is now being prepared in the Foreign Office there, and will contain some important documents on the Black Sea question.

THE naval pension of £50 per annum, vacant by the death of Commander Thomas Hungerford, has been awarded by the First Lord of the Admiralty to Commander Reginald Reid.

THERE are in the world about 120,000 miles of railway, that have cost 10,000,000,000 dols., and give employment to over 1,000,000 persons.

THE Emperor William has decided not to allow the erection of any statue of himself during his lifetime.

GENERAL IGNATIEFF, father of the Russian Ambassador to the Porte, has received from the Czar the Order of St. Andrew in brilliants.

AT Antwerp three hundred and thirty vessels cannot find places in the docks, and must wait their turn.

THE Paris correspondent of the *Times* hears on good authority that the sewers of Paris are not mined.

THE Chevalier d'Eberhardt, Councillor of State, and Consul-General of Russia in Constantinople, died on the 16th ult.

THE total number of messages forwarded from postal telegraph stations in the United Kingdom during the week ended the 22nd of April, 1871, was 215,299, which was an increase of 44,640 over the corresponding week of last year.

A TELEGRAM received by Grant's Trans-Mongolian line states:—"Hong Kong and Shanghai cable broken near Hong Kong."

FROM Gibraltar it is telegraphed that heavy rains have fallen at Lucena, in the province of Cordoba, the water rising to the balconies of the lower windows, flooding the floors of the houses.

THE Crown Prince and Princess of Saxony have taken up their residence at Compiègne.

PHILADELPHIA has shipped 6,556,263 gallons of petroleum to foreign parts since January 1st.

ANOTHER death has taken place from chloroform "properly administered during an operation."

ACCORDING to the *Gaulois* the foreigners in the service of the Commune include 18,000 Garibaldians, 7,000 Irish Fenians and Englishmen, 1,200 Greeks, 600 Americans, and 600 Spanish, Germans, and others.

A SOUTH LONDON fishmonger has been advertising cheap dinners, consisting of two courses of fish, at the low charge of twopence. The "two courses" are found to consist of—first, periwinkles; second, shrimps.

FROM the annual report of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, we learn that fourteen new lifeboats have been placed on the coast during the past three months.

AN Illinois Baptist minister, before immersing his converts, administers chloroform to them.

EARTHQUAKE shocks have been frequent in the Sandwich Islands since the heavy one in February last.

A WOMAN has been murdered near Coleraine. The murderer escaped at the time of the outrage, but has since been apprehended.

A MOVEMENT is on foot among the grocers' assistants of Liverpool to shorten the hours of labour by one hour every day except Saturday.

THE barque *Trophic*, from North Shields for Spain, has been lost at sea. All hands were saved.

AN Athens telegram announces the death of M. Christopuolos, Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had been suffering for a long time from a pulmonary affection.

THE Pope's illness is said to be not of a very serious kind, and there is an impression that it is a pretext for quitting Rome for a short time.

THE *Echo's* New York correspondent telegraphs that the Joint High Commissioners having completed their labours, have adjourned, but will have one final meeting next month.

THE Flying Squadron has arrived at Havanna.

IT is said that some members of the Commune have left Paris in disgust. M. Thiers promises three days' grace for the insurgent leaders to quit the country.

MR. VOYSEY preached in Mr. George Dawson's chapel at Birmingham on Sunday.

A BRUSSELS telegram states that difficulties have arisen in the Peace Conference on the subject of the contributions and requisitions demanded and made by the Prussians since the armistice, and that these have been the cause of the delay which has occurred in the negotiations.

A TELEGRAM from Constantinople announces that Sir H. Elliot, the English Ambassador, is slightly unwell.

THE *Academy* states that Dr. Carpenter, the Registrar of the London University, is to be the President of the British Association for 1872.

THE Conservatives have carried the city of Durham, Mr. Wharton, their candidate, having a majority of thirty-eight.

THE return of expenditure at the last Norwich election shows that the Liberal sitting member, Mr. J. J. Colman, expended £1,749. His Conservative opponent, Sir Charles Legard, expended £1,044.

A WASHINGTON telegram announces the death of Mr. Mason, formerly Confederate Minister to England.

IT is stated in Berlin that the despatch of troops to France is to be resumed, in so far as that course may be deemed necessary to keep up the efficiency of the corps at present stationed in that country.

A CLASS has been opened at Madras for teaching soldiers telegraphy.

THAT doctors can say witty things sometimes is proved by the fact that one of them recently, on being asked to dance the "Lancers," replied that he was better able to lance the dancers.

GENERAL TROCHU has been unable to attend the French Chamber for some days, in consequence of a fall from his horse.

IN a telegram from Suez it is stated that five steamers, with 2,000 pilgrims from Medina, have arrived there in good health. Others who are expected in Bassora are stated to be also free from cholera.

THE main wharf and godowns at Rangoon have been burned down. The loss is estimated at £10,000.

CITIZEN ASSY has been arrested again. The cause is not stated.

THE census returns for Leeds show the population to be 359,200, an increase of 54,946 in ten years.

THE will of Mr. George Wilson, chairman of the Anti-Corn Law League, has been proved under £18,000.

THE *Nouvelliste de Rouen* asserts that it has been ascertained that the Paris Commune have received pecuniary assistance from the London branch of the Internationale to the amount of 3,000,000fr.

THE Cambridgeshire Court of Quarter Sessions has adopted a memorial against local taxation for imperial purposes.

A SCHOLAR at the Nottingham High School was killed the other day by falling from a horizontal bar in the gymnasium. He fell on his head, and was dead before a doctor could arrive.

A LARGE number of human skulls and bones have just been dug up in Carmelite-street, Aberdeen, in the course of excavations which are being made there. The Carmelite friars had once a monastery in that locality.

SIXTY-SEVEN candidates have been nominated to compete for naval cadetships in the month of June.

AS the postal communication with Portugal, *viâ* France, has now resumed its usual regularity, all correspondence for that country will again be forwarded *viâ* France.

THE force which will be assembled at Aldershot in the early autumn will probably consist of about 30,000 men, and comprise considerable proportions of militia, yeomanry, and volunteers.

THE culture of bamboo for paper-making and other purposes is being promoted by the Government of Central India.

THE Italian Ambassador to the Bavarian Court, the Marchese de Migliorati, has been recalled from his post.

IT is believed that a marriage between the Prince of Orange and the Grandduchess Mary, daughter of the Czar, is in contemplation.

THE great French loan is adjourned. Only a provisional loan is to be contracted at present.

WE regret that the ex-Emperor Napoleon is stated to be still suffering at Camden House from severe rheumatic pains.

THE Postmaster-General announces that after the 30th of June next the permission which has been hitherto granted to officers of the Post Office to purchase postage stamps from the public will be withdrawn, and such purchases thenceforward forbidden.

A BUILDING named "Adullam," at Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales, has been registered for the solemnisation of marriages.

THE cholera has broken out at St. Petersburg.

THE remaining vacant classical scholarship at Brasenose College, Oxford, has been awarded to Mr. T. Crick, from Cranbrook Grammar School.

THE petition sent from the Bradford district in opposition to the Government Licensing Bill bears 15,094 signatures.

ABOUT 1,400 German officers and soldiers still remain interned in France.

THE manufacture of velocipedes is again giving work to a large number of hands in South Staffordshire.

COMMEMORATION at Oxford will be held at an unusually early date this year, viz., June 14.

A LETTER from Neisse, in the *Frankfurt Journal*, announces that the French prisoners interned at Falkenberg have attempted to escape, and attacked their guard with stones. The German soldiers had to use their arms. One of the prisoners has been killed and eleven wounded.

THE news published of approaching changes in the Italian Diplomatic Corps is now said to be premature.

THE Baden Government, according to a Reuter's telegram, has decided to abolish all foreign legations, and this measure will come into force on the 1st of November next.

THE Roumanian Government, in order to effect a reduction of the State expenditure, has disbanded the third battalion of all the line chasseur regiments.

THE Queen has accepted from the widow of the late Car[illegible] in Cowper Col[illegible]nt of the model of a turret s[illegible]

[illegible]e of gas has taken place at Preston equiva[illegible] per cent.

THE number of persons killed on Ohio railroads last year was 120, and the number injured 204.

AT New York a curious aurora decorated the firmament on the night of April 13.

THE annual dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund takes place on the 13th inst. at Willis's Rooms. Nearly forty members of the Houses of Peers and Commons and the Diplomatic Corps have intimated their intention of supporting by their presence the Earl of Carnarvon, who takes the chair.

THE Prince of Wales has consented to preside at the fifty-sixth anniversary dinner of the Royal Caledonian Asylum, which will take place in June.

THE death is announced of Sir William Drummond-Stewart, Bart., of Grantully and Murthley. The deceased baronet had been slightly indisposed for some time past, but on Thursday night he had a serious attack of cold, accompanied by inflammation in the throat and chest, from which he died on Friday.

PRINCE Arthur attained his majority on May Day.

ANOTHER "scandal" is announced in the shape of a serious misunderstanding between the Rear-Admiral Superintendent and the Master Attendant of one of our principal dockyards. The case is one in which an investigation is said to be inevitable.

DR. JACOBY has been defeated in the third electoral district of Berlin.

DR. MCDWETT has been consecrated Roman Catholic Archbishop of Raphoe.

THE Prague gun manufacturer Krnka, whose rifles are used in the Russian army to a greater extent than those of any other inventor, has taken a new mitrailleuse of his invention to St. Petersburg. This weapon can be carried in the hand, and fires from twenty-eight to thirty-two discharges a minute.

"For a long period I have been subject to frequent attacks of lumbago, at times so severe as to wholly unfit me for business. After trying many reputed remedies for it, to little or no purpose, I was at last induced to use your Vegetable Pain Killer, and the result was truly surprising, for in a few days the pain left me entirely, and has not since returned. Yours, &c., J. J. HORROX, *New Mills, Derby, Nov.*, 1869.—To Perry Davis & Son." [367

COUNTRY LIFE.

"The Four Course System."

That phrase is more familiar than the alphabet to many thousands of Englishmen; it conveys as little meaning as a Hebrew chant to millions of others. But, whether we understand the "four course system" or whether we do not, it is a matter which concerns us all very much, and though the greater part of our readers are not a bit agricultural, we do not see why they should not be made acquainted with the real drift and importance of a paper read a few days ago in the fastnesses of the county of Hampshire, before the members of a farmers' club, by Mr. Hughes, of Market Harborough, the subject being "The Four Course System: its Evils and Remedies." Now, do not, O urban reader, consider that by this time you have read quite far enough down this paragraph. Drop in, as it were, for just five minutes, upon the meeting of the Botley and South Hants Club, and hear what it is all about. It is a question in which we may well interest ourselves. There is a prescriptive system of farming. It is written down in almost all the leases. The farmer is bound to grow, in rotation, so much acreage of wheat, so much barley, beans, peas, and roots; one of the practical results being, as Mr. Hughes says, that wheat occupies one-fourth of the land for eleven months in the year. Against this tyranny of the old leases, which are copied from generation to generation by the lawyers, without the alteration of a syllable, Mr. Hughes protests, and he seems to make out a case. He looks into the market, and he finds the foreigner coming in with an immense stock of everything that the English farmer grows. In wheat, especially, the importer has a decided advantage over the home grower. His crop is cultivated in distant lands on hundreds of square miles of soil that pays little rent, and supports its labourers at a curiously cheap rate. As to wheat and other produce let us quote Mr. Hughes at this point:—

> "There is no marketable part of the produce of our soil that the foreigner cannot send to this country in quantities and at a price that must eventually stifle our trade."

That is serious if true. We do not want to see all our fields turned into towns and factories, but how shall we set about to hinder it? Our land will rather increase than diminish in value as the population extends. There will be so much discrepancy between the cost of the ground on which houses and shops and factories are built and of that which produces corn, that a levelling process will gradually set in. What we shall ultimately come to under those conditions it is hard to say, but Mr. Hughes is prepared at least with a temporary remedy. We will quote a few separate sentences showing his drift:—

> "My own conviction is that we have grown beans long enough, and that we should grow wheat less frequently upon the description of soil called turnip and barley land. . . .
>
> "I believe I am right in saying that the two crops which I propose to suppress (beans and peas) are those which draw most severely on the backbone of the soil. . . .
>
> "As a matter of fact, founded on experience, barley will bear repeating more frequently than any other cereal. . . .
>
> "Putting the barley at 4s. 6d. per bushel, and wheat at 6s., there would be a balance in favour of the barley of 24s. per acre. . . .
>
> "There are two or three commodities in which at present the foreigner falls short in quality, viz., barley, beef, and mutton. English barley and English beef and mutton still maintain a preference in the market and a remunerative price. . . .
>
> "The diminution of the time occupied in wheat sowing furthers the progress of other important work at a time of great pressure. . . .
>
> "Considering the time that wheat occupies the ground—nearly three times as long as barley—the land must gain by the change, for although wheat is not drawing upon the soil more than seven months out of the eleven, still it occupies the ground and harbours rubbish. The operations for the barley are less costly in every way than for the wheat. . . .
>
> "The removal of the bean crop is the removal of a loss. The substitution of the root crop is a gain of considerable importance, without offering any practical difficulties. . . .
>
> "In weighing the truth of the position in which I have assumed the corn grower of this country now finds himself, as well as the merits of this change of system as a remedy, it is important to bear in mind the description of land for which it is intended, viz., such land as is known by practical men as turnip and barley land, well adapted for feeding off with sheep."

Mr. Hughes, therefore, proposes to grow—at least on the very large area embraced by the sort of soil he describes—no more beans or peas, and not much wheat. This is an outline of his course:—

> "Barley first, then roots and seed, barley and wheat, roots, barley, seed and roots, wheat and barley, roots. It will be seen that I have cut out the bean and pea crop altogether, and kohl-rabi is prominent *vice* beans and peas. The next step is to substitute barley for half the wheat course, making such an interchange with the kohl-rabi and seeds as shall cause the seeds to be repeated once in eight years on the same land."

Are not these proposals which should interest us all? If a philosopher were to rise up among us, and declare that this tight little island must grow no more wheat, there is not a citizen among us who would hear the announcement with absolute indifference. It must not be imagined that Mr. Hughes is an isolated reformer. He expresses the growing feeling of the farmers of England. Only very cautiously and tentatively does Mr. Hughes hint that we must learn to grow fewer and fewer crops for human consumption, and cultivate cattle. It may be the work of generations, but, sooner or later, half our ploughed fields will be turned into pastures, while almost the other half will be occupied in producing turnips, beet, &c., wherewith to feed our oxen, sheep, swine, and horses. The foreigner may bring shiploads of wheat to our millers and shiploads of flour to our bakers; he may even learn, by and by—though probably at a much more distant date—to beat us in the production of barley, and rob our farmers of their excellent customers, Messrs. Bass and Allsopp; but it must be ages before any nation in the world can supply us with beef and mutton so admirably as we can supply ourselves. We trust the revolution will be a gentle one, not materially interfering with the fortunes of our farmers in the process; but, as a matter of taste and feeling, we shall not mind seeing a large portion of our arable land changed into charming pastures covered with buttercups and daisies, whereon tens of thousands of fine oxen and sheep may be seen grazing in almost all seasons. Mr. Hughes and those who are fighting the battle with him against the "four-course shift," have our best wishes. Hurrah for home-grown meat in abundance, and English pastures!

The Reds and the Blues.

Some of our privileges are rapidly dying out. Let us make the most of them while they last. It will not be long, perhaps, before all the good old fun and frolic will be extracted from our elections. Narratives of a few of the latest examples ought to be preserved, or portions of the "Pickwick Papers" will want corroboration, and a new generation will grow up distrusting the faithfulness of Mr. Dickens's pictures of English political life. We extract from the *Newcastle Chronicle* a few of the very latest incidents of English electioneering. The scene was Durham on Saturday last:—

> "The excitement rose to an almost alarming pitch. Unfortunate freemen who had the temerity to acknowledge that they had 'hardly made up their minds' were unceremoniously pulled by contending Blues and Reds towards the polling booths, and not a few genuine stand-up fights then ensued as to which party had the greater claim to the captive. Two or three noted Reds, having imbibed too freely, were polled by the Blues amid such a storm of cheering and merriment as is very seldom heard; while the Tories, not to be beaten in acuteness, were said to have distrained upon two convalescent small-pox patients, rather 'distantly' ushered them into a cab, and carried them off in triumph. The applause of one party was, of course, the signal for the groans and hooting of the other, and the deafening noise was almost incessant."

Grog and Pipes.

> "Grog and wine, pipes and cigars, having been supplied by an active little barmaid, Mr. Ogburn proceeded to address the meeting."

That is an extract from a report in the *Hampshire Telegraph* of a meeting at Landport to protest against Mr. Bruce's New Licences Bill. We have no desire to make light of the feelings of the very large body of gentlemen whose interests appear to be threatened by this measure, but we cannot resist the temptation to cull a few extracts, illustrative of a particular phase of country life, from the great pile of local reports which lie before us narrating the progress of the licensed victuallers' agitation. Some of these speakers are rather hard on the teetotallers. Mr. Stone, M.P., had, it seems, asked the chairman of the Landport meeting if he knew who the teetotallers were, to which, as he reported at the above meeting, he replied:—

> "They're only a few Sunday-school children and old women, with two or three parsons at their back. These were not 'the public.'"

With people who do not "like a drop of good beer" this gentleman has not much patience, for he says:—

> "Some people who were out in the evening on a hot day would not drink themselves, and would not allow others; but he would like to be on their backs with a pair of good spurs, and he would make them drink!"

At Wolverhampton Mr. Bruce was charged with attempting to create a prejudice against this department of trade by the very title of his Bill. It is to be called "The Intoxicating Liquors Licensing Act":—

> "What," said Mr. Walker, "did they think of such a title as that? If the liquor sold by publicans did nothing but intoxicate, then it would be the duty of Parliament to suppress it; but because in one case out of twenty, or one case out of a hundred, intoxication followed the sale of liquor, were all persons who sell it to be shut out from their trade, and a large majority of the community to be restricted, simply because a small portion of them indulged in these kind of refreshments to excess? ('No, no.') Anything more gross than that he could not conceive."

The title was not only a libel upon those articles of commerce, it was eminently ridiculous, as witness the following:—

> "The Bill proceeded to define what are intoxicating liquors, and he found these included small beer and cider—(laughter)."

Small beer and cider ought to be much obliged to Mr. Bruce for the compliment. Here is a happy suggestion:—

> "The teetotallers said that 60 millions per annum was spent in these liquors. Well, if that was thought to be too much to spend upon such articles, let Government take off the duty, and the expenditure would be reduced one half. (Hear, hear.)"

At the Dudley meeting a good deal of difference of opinion was manifested, thus:—

> "For some time before the chair was taken, there were word-fights in various parts of the hall, and one of these culminated in a general *mêlée*. This occurred in the middle of the floor, and, to make room for the encounter, the chairs were lifted, and as this gave rise to an impression that a more dangerous warfare was about to be resorted to, a great number of the terror-stricken audience made a rush towards the entrance near the platform. Just in front of this were the reporters, who had to beat a hasty retreat. The tables were upset and the chairs trampled upon and broken."

Mr. Charles Green, a maltster, who presided at a meeting at Wednesbury, recommended a short and easy method with representatives in Parliament who refused to oppose the Bill. Premising that—

> "There was not a borough in the kingdom in which the licensed victuallers could not return the Parliamentary representatives if they thought fit,"

he advised them to say to their members:—

> "If you vote for the measure it is no use your coming to us again, because we will return Tory, Radical, sweep, or anybody rather than you."

The Newcastle meeting furnished proof that the publicans are not necessarily *re*publicans, nor, as a body, opposed to the existence of the "second estate," for did not Mr. Blakey declare:—

> "If the Bill should pass into committee then they would be determined to fight the Bill clause by clause; and if they were beaten on the third reading then they might say, 'Thank God there is a House of Lords'"?

On Mr. Ireland the bill has had a calamitous effect—to wit:—

> "He had been a Liberal from his boyhood, but he was now inclined to say the Liberals had got his last vote."

For the almost unaccountable existence of this extraordinary Bill, Mr. Emery, at a meeting at Hastings, discovered the *raison d'être*:—

> "The measure was," he said, "intended to divert attention from something more weighty—the enormous increase of our expenditure, and the imposition of new taxes. No doubt without Mr. Bruce's scheme the country would be rising to oppose the increased expenditure—something like two and a half millions. No doubt it was done to distract the attention of the people from that object."

One Mr. Bailey, a speaker at the Cambridge meeting, turned his anger upon Mr. Gladstone, and took the opportunity of denouncing the general policy of the Administration thus:—

> "He thought the brewers as a body had been most unmercifully insulted without the least provocation. The liberty of the subject was in danger. Were they to do the bidding of Gladstone? Throughout his career he had impoverished the people for the benefit of the foreigner. If he was rightly informed the whole of the bricks being now used in the erection of the Post Office were manufactured abroad, while our labourers were standing still for want of work at home. If self-preservation must be the first law of nature it must be the first law of the country, which ought to employ its own labour in preference to that of the foreigner. He had been in favour of free trade, but," &c.

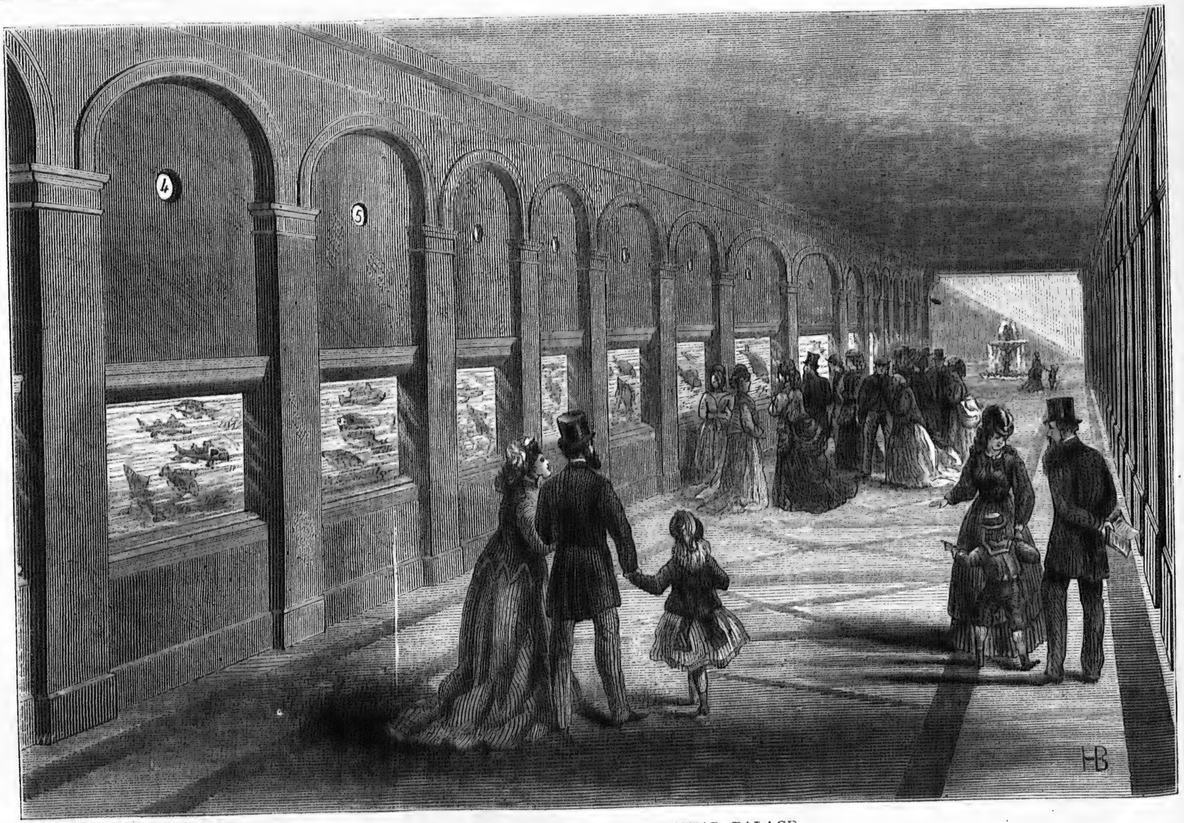
We need not follow the speaker in his dissertation upon free trade, nor will we search further for tit-bits from the licensed victuallers' meetings. We have quoted enough to show that the feelings of the profession are aroused. The only wonder is that meanwhile the teetotallers are so exceptionally quiet.

After April Fair.

There is an old custom among notable housewives who respect the almanack to rule their households in strict accordance with dates. On a certain day in spring out goes the parlour fire, though there should be a deep snow on the ground and the thermometer ranged below zero. The hapless master of the house from that time must endure the cold as best he may, or follow the fire to the kitchen. There are towns and local authorities equally exact in their regulations. Of these is the township of Howden, in Yorkshire. The Local Board of Health, enjoying economical notions with respect to the rates, have on their minutes a bye-law by which there is no more lighting of gas in the streets after "April Fair." April Fair, unfortunately for the inhabitants who want to go out at night, is over, and the moon had no notice of the event. The consequences are narrated in a local paper by an evening adventurer as follows:—

> "I have lately been staying a few days in Howden, and one evening last week went out into the country, returning about 10.30 p.m. in the midst of a pouring rain. Entering the town from the Goole-road, through Hail-gate, I was not surprised to find the streets deserted, but was certainly astonished to find them in total darkness. With considerable difficulty I groped my way round the High Bridge-corner, and, on getting to the end of that narrow thoroughfare, proposed to take a near cut across the Market-place, but I had only gone a few yards when I came violently in contact with what I next morning found to be some turnabout bicycles, which an enterprising showman had erected in the middle of the street, and which had been left there for several days. After tearing my dress, and seriously grazing my shins, I at last got extracted from this unlooked-for labyrinth, and with slow and careful steps proceeded further to explore the Egyptian darkness by which I was surrounded, my progress being next stopped by a hawker's cart placed near the pump. Steering across to the other side of the street, I was congratulating myself on a happy escape from all my dangers, when I suddenly came in contact with a post placed at the edge of the flags, used as a support for a shop sun blind, which, like several others of a similar character, was, I found, allowed to remain out by night as well as by day. With limping gait, wet and torn clothes, and a narrow escape from a black eye, I at last reached my friend's house. My hospitable host and myself afterwards discussed the local 'situation' with two of his neighbours over a cup of chocolate and a cigar, and I then ascertained 'the reason why' the town was left in such an intolerable state of darkness. No matter what is the age of the moon, the lighting of the street lamps is discontinued after the April Fair, which took place the day before."

Should the Metropolitan Board of Works some day take a lesson in economy from the Howden Local Board, we shall have adventures to relate in the London journals, perhaps even more startling than those of the correspondent whom we have quoted.



THE AQUARIUM AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

CRYSTAL PALACE AQUARIUM.

THE aquarium which we illustrate on this page is a new feature of the Crystal Palace, and all who know Boulogne will understand and appreciate this new attraction of "the World's Show." The visitor, with a little stretch of imagination, may fancy himself at the bottom of the sea, and may look the cod-fish full in the face, if his conscience will allow him to do so after devouring so many of the family. He will learn that soles do not swim in pairs, nor sideways, and that lobsters, in spite of the fishmongers' assertions to the contrary, have, as a rule, two claws. There are not any whales or sharks, but the smaller wonders of the deep may be seen "all alive" and in great variety. Before going home to tea and plaice, you can see how that fish behaves itself in the water, and resolve for yourself whether its conduct justifies its being fried and eaten alive.

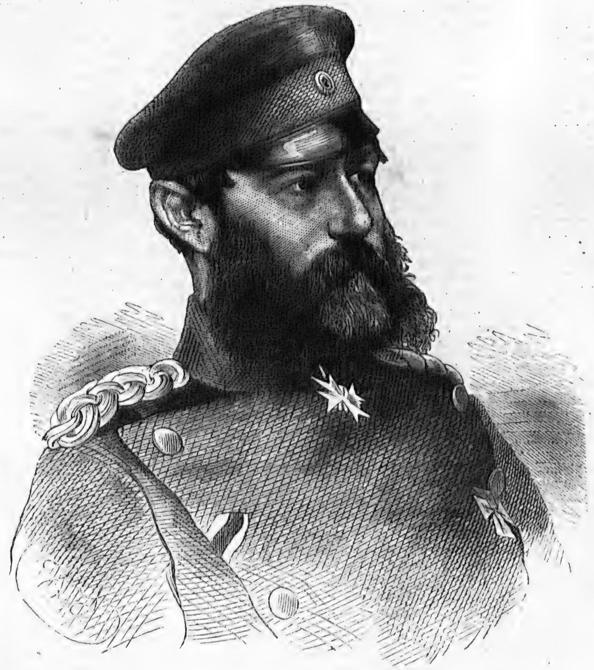
The aquarium measures 312 feet long and 20 feet high, and is in width 53 feet in some places, and 35 in others. The public portions of the building consist of three rooms—a saloon, of which the floor space measures 184 feet long and 16½ feet broad; a south room, having a floor space of 30 feet long and 8½ feet broad; and a north room, with a floor space of 14 feet long and 8½ feet broad. Besides these, there are, in the part not shown to the public, a work room; a steam-engine and boiler-room; an apartment to contain the heating apparatus; two store-rooms; an attendants' gallery running from end to end of the entire building, and an office.

There are 150,000 gallons of sea-water, weighing 700 tons, of which 130,000 gallons are in a reservoir below the saloon, and 20,000 gallons are distributed among sixty tanks containing the animals. These tanks are of various dimensions and proportions, varying from 75 gallons to 4,000 gallons each, and ranging in depth vertically from 6 inches to six feet of water, and therefore they will suit the requirements of a great number and large variety of creatures, from sponges to fishes. The sea-water is raised into these tanks from the reservoir below the saloon; and it flows through and among them, falling down a succession of levels, so that in its progress it may do as much work as possible, until it enters the reservoir from whence it came, and from which it is again and again pumped by steam-power, at the rate of from 5,000 to 10,000 gallons an hour, continuously, day and night; and by means of this aërating motion, coupled with the oxygenation derived from growing plants, no change of water will be needed, and the quantity (brought from Brighton by Mr. Hudson) will be used year after year indefinitely, the loss of fresh water by evaporation being supplied weekly by the addition of an equal quantity of water distilled on the premises.

A space at the northern end of the saloon exists for a corresponding series of fresh-water tanks; and these will be added when some further experiences have been gained.

The architect is Mr. C. H. Driver, who has shown much ingenuity in every part, and in making a saving use of all portions of the area assigned to him. This aquarium will for its size be the most economical one ever made, both in construction and maintenance.

Mr. Lloyd's aquarium is very popular with visitors. The bottom of one compartment is covered with sea anemones and sponges of an equally high vitality. In another compartment carp and tench swim lazily about, and a third is filled with pike. The aquarium is the most complete thing of the kind in Europe, not excepting that of Hamburg, of which Mr. Lloyd was formerly the curator, and it was here that he perfected the art of which the Crystal Palace visitors are to have the benefit. The aquarium will be opened to the public in a few days.



MAJOR-GENERAL VON SCHLOTHEIN.

Two hundred old silver coins have been dug up in a field at Kilbride, Scotland.

Glasgow has increased in population by 120,000 in the last ten years, being now 560,000.

M. Gambetta arrived at Madrid on the 23rd ult., and was present the next day at the sitting of the Cortes.

At Rouen, an ex-Councillor General and 500 supposed agents of the International have, it is said, been arrested. Many arrests have taken place at Lyons.

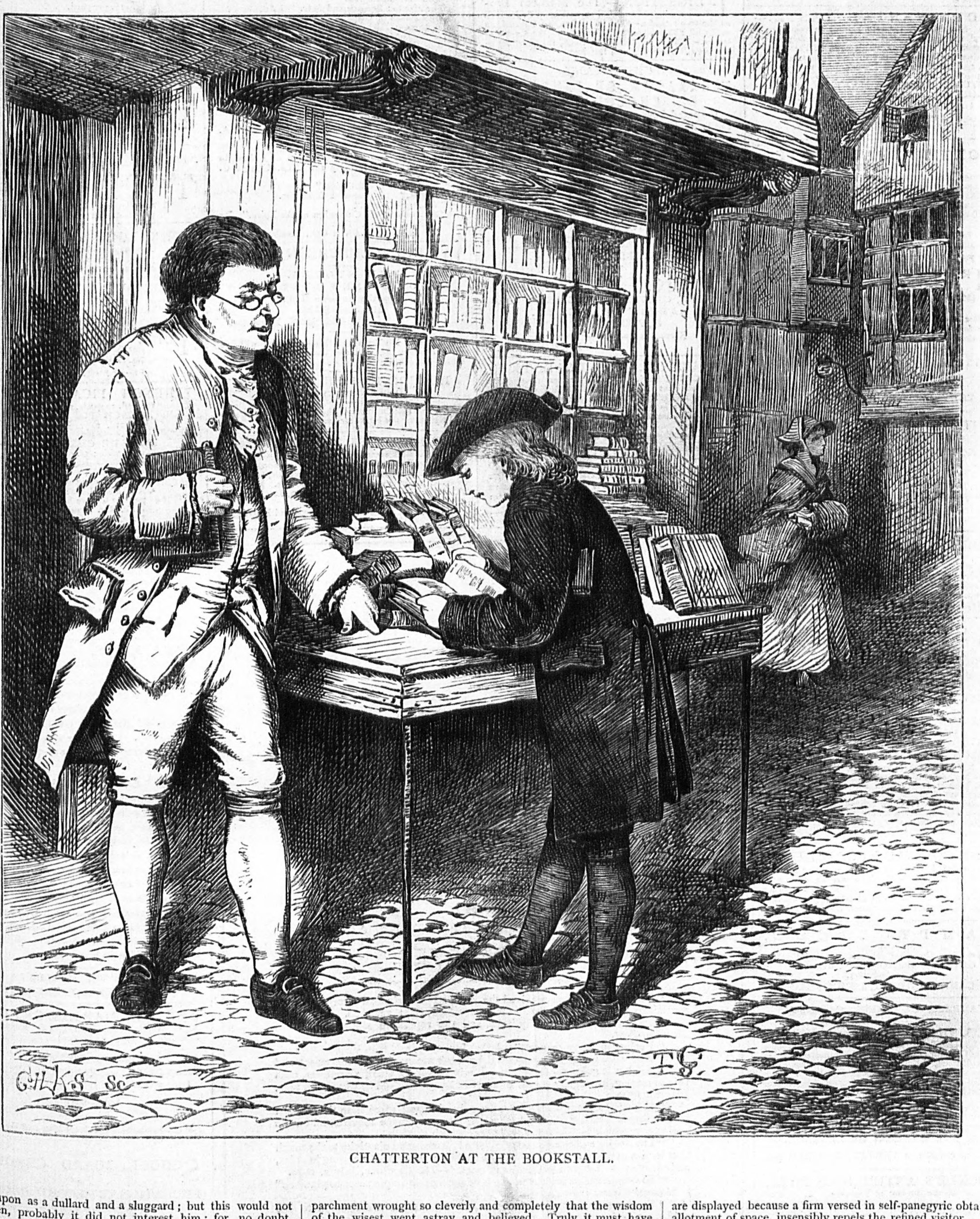
The construction of a tramway from Blackfriars Bridge to Camberwell is progressing rapidly, and a portion of this tramroad will be opened during the summer.

On Monday all the colliers in the Rhondda Valley individually gave a written notice to their masters to the effect that on the 1st of June next they will give up the employment which they now hold under them. It is stated that there are about 5,000 unionists in this district.

PRUSSIAN GENERALS.—No collection of portraits of distinguished German officers who have seen active service in the late war would be complete without the two we publish this week. We more particularly allude to Lieut.-General Geo. Arnold Karl von Kameke. He is a Prussian general and one of the chief inspectors of forts, and is known throughout the service for his great scientific knowledge. He is also chief of the engineer corps and pioneers who exercised so marvellous an influence upon the late campaign. Our second portrait is that of Major-General von Schlothein, of the Fourth Army Corps.

CHATTERTON AT THE BOOKSTALL.

In the strange life of Thomas Chatterton, the boy-poet of Bristol, it is written that when a lad of but ten years he had a deep love for reading; but books were well-nigh out of his reach, for his mother was a poor widow, and the "Complete Works of William Shakespeare" were not then published at a shilling. Chatterton had friends, nevertheless, who lent him many valuable works, all of which he studied earnestly, nearly every branch of literature interesting him. One day would find him pondering over books of heraldry and antiquities, which would be thrown aside the next day for astronomy, divinity, and so on; but, above all, he loved the study of history and poetry. Chatterton was a mistake in the eyes of his friends. He was looked upon as a dullard and a sluggard; but this would not dishearten, probably it did not interest him; for, no doubt, when very young he had "thrown away all trivial fond records," and entered upon a course of study, not to be swayed either one way or the other by the advice of others. He was styled a stupid boy, but, like many other stupid boys before and after his time, he has left his "footprints on the sands of time," whilst nature's brighter looking productions have grown into very ordinary mortals, and soon passed from the memory of man. There lived in Bristol a bookseller of the name of Goodall, and to this shop used to come one of the boys of Colston's Free School, to spend his money in hiring books to read. He was a small boy—a lad of ten years. This was Chatterton, who, although poor, found means and time to read. He had the will, and he made the way. On this page we give an illustration representing Chatterton at Goodall's bookstall, deep in the lore of some volume quaint and curious. Our readers are doubtless well acquainted with the Rowley forgeries, and we will therefore not repeat the sad tale that tarnished the name of Chatterton. Those very poems that he declared were by "the Monk," and brought him into disgrace, would have secured him fame, if not fortune, had he honestly owned them, but it may be that this would not have afforded him so much gratification as by pen and parchment and his own brain to deceive the greatest *littérateurs* and wiseacres of his day. It must have stung the pride of Horace Walpole and others to confess that their great learning had been duped by these "ancient" MSS., and thus the boy-poet brought about him crushing enemies. There was the old phraseology dimly seen on the yellow faded parchment wrought so cleverly and completely that the wisdom of the wisest went astray and believed. Truly it must have been hard for these men of taste and discernment (men who had, perhaps, passed through five of the seven ages) to be duped so thoroughly by a boy. It is dangerous to play with the vanity of others. Still Chatterton was truthful and honourable. He was a loving son—an affectionate brother. In his hardest days of distress, when he could not earn enough to save himself from starvation, he bought little presents for his mother and sister, and his brightest hope in this life was that he might one day make them happy. As for his fault—it was a brilliant one, and is read of not with a feeling of disgust, but admiration. But even if it were a grievous fault, grievously he answered it, for sorrow and trouble came upon him so grimly and terribly that he committed suicide. Then died "a most rare boy."



CHATTERTON AT THE BOOKSTALL.

The International Exhibition. — The International Exhibition of 1871 was opened on May Day by the Prince of Wales, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen. The worshippers of Saint Monday were there in great force, and the crowds that collected before the several entrances were quite as numerous as on the occasion of the opening of the Royal Albert Hall. The idea which pervades the Exhibition the *Times* believes to be excellent, so far as regards the gratification of the sightseer, whilst it also promises to encourage real improvement, scientific and artistic. The commissioners are to be congratulated on having recognised the feature of former Exhibitions, which wearied, to use no stronger term, the intelligent visitor. To encounter on every side mean and tasteless objects, which could have no just place in a collection of a nation's industry, but which are displayed because a firm versed in self-panegyric obtains an allotment of space, insensibly repels the refined visitor. Moreover, the increasing display of goods of all kinds in handsome shops and at such permanent bazaars as the Crystal Palace satiates the sightseer, who is apt to think, when he enters a new Exhibition, that after all it is only Regent-street under a glass roof. No such impression ought to be created by a collection on the principle now to be adopted. The *Times* is glad that at last the Exhibition is naturalised among us as an annual. There will be less fuss and parade about it, and it will not be thought necessary to din its approach into the ears of mankind for a twelvemonth or more. It will take its place quietly among the instructive amusements of the London season.

Full-grown mushrooms were gathered at Blagdon on Saturday. Last year it was the middle of May before any were seen.

THE "LOUISE" BREAKFAST DRESS.

A charming toilette for early morning wear, made of Printed Cambrics in a variety of new designs and colourings.

15s. 9d. Guaranteed fast. Price 15s. 9d.

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Messrs. JAY have the honour to announce to their distinguished Customers that, notwithstanding the political confusions which exist in France, the Parisian modistes and couturières are as active as ever, and have furnished Messrs. JAY with some of the prettiest and most striking NOVELTIES in COSTUMES, DRESSES, MANTLES, and MILLINERY they have had on show for many years.

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CONTINENTAL TASTE.—
MANTLES FOR MAY.

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JAY'S,
247, 249, 251, REGENT STREET. [290

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MR. WILLIAM J. WATSON,
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(Many years Assistant to Mr. Eskell, of Bennett's-hill),

Supplies every description of Artificial Teeth and Gums so largely advertised, at about one-third of the usual charges, being the *actual maker*.

SINGLE TEETH FROM 3s. 6d.,
SETS FROM £2 10s., INCLUDING ALL CHARGES.

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CORNS AND BUNIONS. — A

Gentleman, many years tormented with Corns, will be happy to afford others the information by which he obtained their COMPLETE REMOVAL in a short period, without pain or any inconvenience. —Forward address, on a stamped envelope, to F. Kingston, Esq., Church Street, Ware, Herts. [238

SINGING!!!

'Twas all my fancy painted it,
'Twas lovely and did shine;
I'll go and get another,
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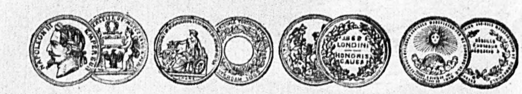

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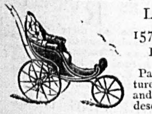

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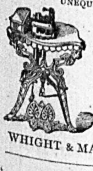

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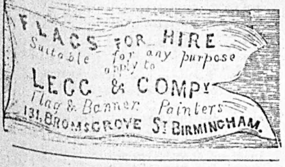

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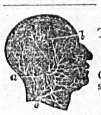

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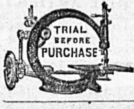

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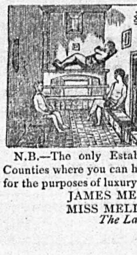

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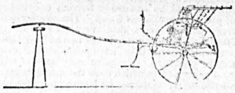

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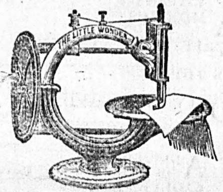

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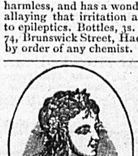

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